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Daily Eastern News: November 13, 2003

Eastern Illinois University

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Student teachers may have to test

By April McLaren
STAFF WRITER

The Illinois Assessment of Professional Teaching Test will be brought to the Council on Academic Affairs Thursday for revision, making it a requirement to take the test in order to pass Student Teaching Course, STG 4001.

The current state requirement is to take the test to student teach.

"The issue now is whether or not the test should be a requirement for the course," said James Tidwell, journalism professor and CAA member.

If the revision is approved, it will be effective fall 2004.

Katie Torbik, a junior elementary education major, does not agree with another required test.

"I'm tired of all the tests we have to take," she said. "No other majors have to take this many tests."

Matt Iblene, a sophomore physical education major with a teacher

certification, agrees with Torbik.

"There are just too many tests to take," he said.

On the other hand, Lauren Lentine, a senior elementary education major, said the assessment test is a good idea.

"It is a way to make sure teachers are prepared before they teach," she said.

The CAA will also be discussing and acting on revisions to the University Waiver Policy and the Honors College Waiver Form.

CAA Chair Andrew Methven said four academic colleges on campus have a policy that allow a student to waive certain classes due to scheduling conflicts. Currently, the Honors College does not have that policy. Depending on Thursday's vote, that could change.

"It is something that has needed to be done for awhile," Methven said.

The CAA will meet at 2 p.m. Thursday in Booth Library Conference Room 4440.

Poor attendance cancels poetry night

By Kevin Sampier
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

A spoken word event sponsored by the Diversity Affairs Committee was canceled Tuesday night after only six people showed up.

Diversity Affairs Committee Chair Nancy Zegler said the event will be postponed for two to three weeks.

Zegler said the committee plans to advertise the next event more heavily to increase attendance.

She said she plans to give the next event "full fledged publicity" including advertising on Eastern's TV station, WEIU-TV and in *The Daily Eastern News* as well as in fliers around campus.

Fliers promoting the event were the only form of publicity for Tuesday's show, at which six people attended, before Zegler decided to cancel it because of lack of participation.

Several prizes that were to be given away during the event, including a DVD player, a personal CD player and a gift certificate from Wal-Mart, will be saved until the next event, she said.

The event would have showcased students performing poetry, writings and other works, while audience members acted as judges, deciding who got the prizes, Zegler previously said.

"We had people come and go," Zegler said of potential performers who saw the lack of audience members and decided to leave.

An additional spoken word event is scheduled for the spring semester and will go on as scheduled, Zegler said.

Committee Member Alicia Robinson said previously in an interview with *The Daily Eastern News* she expected a high turnout for the event and "last year the turnout was good and the competition was great."



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Cut me some slack

Mark Vahling (left), and Neil Seeley (right), both of Anderson Electric, pull underground fiber-optic cable from the east side of Lantz to the west side of O'Brien Wednesday afternoon. The fiber-optic cable will be used as the backbone for the new network on campus.

Student apologizes for racial slur

By Kevin Sampier
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

A student who made a racial slur to an African American teaching assistant apologized before the Student Senate Wednesday night.

The student, who wished to remain anonymous, told the senate he was sorry a racially insensitive comment he said was overheard by Tiffany Yates, but the comment was not directed at Yates, but to a friend in a joking manner.

"What I said was ignorant, even though it wasn't aimed at Ms. Yates," the student said.

"Regardless of my intentions, the word I used only inspires fear and hatred, which disrupts a diverse environment."

Senate Member Sean Anderson, a friend of the student, advised his friend to speak before the senate to help clear up confusion.

"I thought it was the best idea for him and his well-being to show what he felt," Anderson said. "It's not in his nature to do something like this."

The senate applauded the student for the action he took during

the meeting.

Two senate bills were passed unanimously Wednesday, which asked for additional allocations for comedians and Legislative View Books.

The senate approved the purchase of 500 view books, which will be sent to state legislators and government officials, senate member George Lesica said.

The final cost for the books will be \$741 instead of a previous price quote of \$1,741, Lesica said.

The request to spend \$2,000 on two additional comedians during the spring semester was approved and given to the University Board. The UB overspent the money budgeted for the comedians on breakfast bars earlier this semester, Larry Ward, student vice president for financial affairs, previously said.

"We shouldn't hold the students accountable for them not budgeting properly," Ward said.

A senate bill asking for \$860 to pay for Off-Campus Housing Booklets was approved after bylaws to table the bill for a week were suspended.

The booklets will contain information on leases, landlords and other off campus issues students deal with, said Bill O'Connor, chair of the Housing Committee.

A concern of libelous material on landlords was discussed during the meeting, and O'Connor said he will talk to lawyers about the issue.

The money has already been approved, but if certain information about landlords is libelous, it will be taken out, Student Senate Speaker Mike Walsh said.

Bills to create a mission statement for the Diversity Affairs Committee and a shuttle schedule phone line were tabled until next week.

Anderson, a co-author of the mission statement bill, said the Yates incident was "one sign we need to step up diversity on campus."

The Student Senate meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays in Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Student Government editor Kevin Sampier can be reached at ksampier@hotmail.com

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PHONE: 217-581-2812 (fax 581-2923)

E-MAIL: jfeasternnews@hotmail.com

NIGHT STAFF:

Night editor Matt Williams
News Design Karen Kirt
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College tuition jumps as states up budget cuts

By Ryan Sparks
STAFF WRITER

As the end of the semester quickly approaches, students are once again being reminded of the cost of tuition here at Eastern. State budget cuts across the nation have led to the highest tuition rates for four-year public colleges in three decades. Tuition jumped 14 percent over the previous year according to the College Board's annual survey. Effects of state budget cuts are being felt throughout universities in the state of Illinois as well, including Eastern. Due to the combination of state cuts and cost increases, Eastern saw a \$4.3 million budget cut this fiscal year," said Jim Shonkwiler, director of the Budget Office at

Eastern. "Prices for commodities and services, such as utilities, rise every year. Thus, the cost of tuition rises." As a result, Eastern saw a 9.5 percent increase in tuition for the 2003-04 academic year, said Jone Zieren, director of the financial aid office at Eastern. While the increase at Eastern is not as high as the nationwide average of 14 percent, it is still a dramatic jump from the 4 percent yearly increase Eastern is accustomed to seeing, according to the annual survey. Compared to the rest of the four-year public universities in Illinois, Eastern falls somewhere in the center relating to increases in tuition and fees, Shonkwiler said. "Eastern is right in the middle of the pack as far as increases in

tuition are concerned," Shonkwiler said. "There are a number of schools considerably higher, including Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and Edwardsville." Tuition and fees at Eastern for full-time students are approximately \$5,149 for 2003-04, compared to the price tag of \$3,702 in 2002-03, according to a Student Services financial aid brochure. The nationwide average for tuition and fees at public four-year colleges for the 2003-04 school year is \$4,694. Along with the rising cost of tuition, the annual survey has also found that grant aid for schools across the nation has increased to its highest level ever. In fact, over the past 10 years, grant aid has increased at a rate that surpasses

that of tuition prices at both private and public four-year colleges. Total financial aid, including loans, reached a record amount of \$105 billion in 2002-03, a 15 percent increase over the \$92 billion awarded to students in the previous year. Several types of aid are offered to students who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), according to Eastern's Web site. These include Federal Pell Grants, the Monetary Award Program (MAP) and several types of Federal loans. "As the cost of tuition increases, more and more students are turning to alternative loan programs," Zieren said. "There also has been an increase in Federal PLUS Loans, which parents of dependent students with a good credit

history are eligible to receive." Although the latest figures are not available, Eastern is following the trend of other schools in America, Zieren said. The amount of financing for Pell Grants at Eastern rose 23 percent from the 2000-01 to 2001-02 academic year. That number is again expected to rise this year. Records show of the 10,531 students enrolled in the fall semester at Eastern during the 2001 school year, 78.3 percent received some type of financial assistance, at an average of \$6,136 per student, according to Zieren. One thing is for sure, it is certain that the cost of tuition will once again rise next year and so will the amount of aid offered and received.

Strode to bid Eastern farewell at month's end

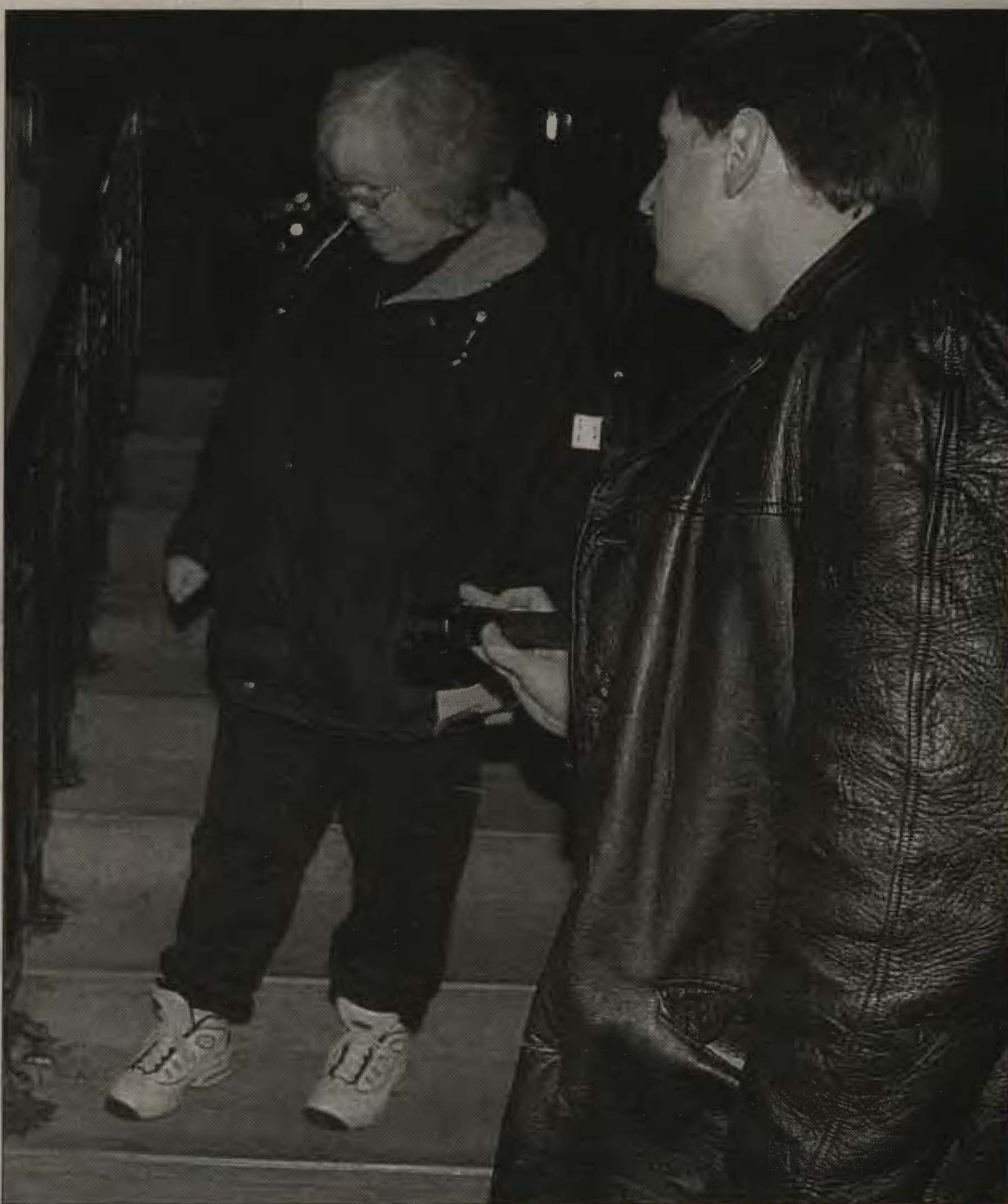
By Tim Martin
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

One of Eastern's longest serving employees, who directs much of the campus' building service maintenance, will retire at the end of the month. Carol Strode, director of facilities planning and management, is a 35-year employee of Eastern. She says her resignation, which she announced Nov. 1, was done to fulfill a goal she made with her husband when they married to retire by time they were 55. Mary Reed, affiliated with the physical plant, will assume Strode's vacancy on an interim basis. A search committee has not yet been formed, but President Lou Hencken said the committee should have "close to 11 or 13 people" and should begin meeting in January. Family obligations, Strode said, played a large role in her decision. "I've devoted a lot of time out here, but I've enjoyed it thoroughly," Strode said, who mentioned spending time with her 10-month-old grandson. Optimally, the position will be filled this spring, Hencken says. Vice President for Business Affairs Jeff Cooley will oversee the search. Over the last year, members within the facilities planning and management department have taken the necessary steps to replace Strode, who said this decision has been made for about a year. She says the necessary people have been groomed and involved in meetings. "So now we won't have an abrupt change," Strode said.

"I've devoted a lot of time out here, but I've enjoyed it thoroughly."

—Carol Strode, director of facilities planning and management

For example, Jim Nantz, affiliated with the physical plant, will assume the media relations responsibility Strode once held. Hencken, a 37-year employee at Eastern, remembers chatting with Strode about draft windows when he was a residence hall director at Douglas Hall. Since then, those windows have been replaced twice. "A couple of people here could have people sit in their place, but Carol is one of those people we can't replace," Hencken said. Under Strode, progress toward the revamped Doudna Fine Arts Center took flight. The building, which is scheduled for completion in fall 2005, has snagged in progress because funding has not been replaced by the state. On Wednesday, Hencken said he believes funding for Doudna, which has to be released by Gov. Rod Blagojevich, is "high priority" and that the university will hear something "real soon." Strode said she will help with the search process, if needed, but that comes as no surprise. "The thing I liked about her is that when you ask her for something," Hencken said, "her first words are 'let me see what we can do.' And that means she's looking to find a way to solve these issues."



Carol Strode, director of facilities planning and management, looks at the front steps of Stevenson Hall with University Police Chief Adam Due Oct. 28 during the lightwalk.

DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

See last week's pictures at www.collegeclubtour.com

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jfeasternnews@hotmail.com

EDITORIAL

Poster program not necessary

The Student Senate University Development and Recycling Committee is again reducing, reusing and recycling, but this time in the cliched proposal of hanging posters throughout campus to promote recycling.

The committee originally presented the idea via a presentation to the Residence Hall Association earlier this semester but concluded posters are the optimum medium with which to inform students.

"Posters hit more people," committee chair Ryan Herdes said. It is true posters are visible, but certainly no more eye-catching than the five-foot-tall, bright blue recycling bins clustered in each residence hall and in Greek Court.

According to Herdes, the posters will "make students stop and think about how much garbage they use" but how many students are likely to read recycling posters when other proverbial manifestos litter the walls of nearly every building on campus?

The plan, according to Herdes, is to catch students in locations when they are standing in line and are able to stop and read.

While the cost and distribution methods of the posters have yet to be released, it begs the question whether Eastern needs an awareness program on campus.

Yes, there could, theoretically, be more awareness necessary, but Eastern already ranks highly within the state in recycling and has been the recipient of many recycling-related awards in the past three years.

Eastern was awarded \$9,258 for the expansion of recycling from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, Bureau of Energy and Recycling in 2001 and received a grant from the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs in 2000.

In addition to the grant money received by the university, Eastern has an impressive record in regards to the amount recycled. As a result of Eastern's recycling program, there were 374.42 tons of paper and cardboard recycled on campus in 2001. The program also has saved 6,365 trees, 2,620,940 gallons of water, 22,465.2 kilowatt hours of electricity, and 1,123.26 cubic yards of landfill space, recycling coordinator Allan Rathe said in a Sept. 2002 issue of *The Daily Eastern News*.

Increased recycling awareness is a plus, it seems rather ironic to kill trees to create posters to promote recycling that will themselves simply be recycled. The editorial is the majority opinion of the *Daily Eastern News* editorial board.

At issue

Posters to promote recycling awareness.

Our stance

Recycling is a worthy program, but Eastern is already renown for its recycling programs and recycling bins on campus are tough to miss.

OPINION

The congregation is missing out



John Chambers
News editor and semi-monthly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*

Chambers also is a senior journalism major

He can be reached at jochambers82@hotmail.com

Discrimination is almost always still just discrimination, no matter how you package it.

The First Presbyterian Church in Downer's Grove wrapped it neatly in the form of recently firing their music director of 13 years because of his sexual orientation.

At least that's where Eastern alumnus Todd Diehl laid the blame.

Diehl, 43 and gay, said he felt forced to leave his music position after refusing to practice celibacy.

The Presbyterian church wouldn't comment.

The church struck out in comparison to the strides other denominations are taking toward acceptance of homosexuals.

The Episcopal Church ordained its first openly gay bishop two weeks ago, making him the first to hold such a position in the world's major Christian bodies.

The Presbyterians also don't agree as a denomination.

John Besore, senior pastor with the First Presbyterian Church in Mattoon, said Diehl's orientation shouldn't have been a problem.

The denomination does not allow "self-affirmed" homosexuals to serve in ordained positions, a role Diehl wasn't in.

"This was not an ordained position," Besore said. "To say that you have to change to be on the staff is narrow-minded."

Besore said Presbyterians are

"The Downer's Grove church didn't choose to ask Diehl to leave because of his attitude, his lack of compassion or because he just couldn't teach music."

not closed-minded. Even if the Downer's Grove church wasn't concerned with his homosexuality, but his chastity, they had no right to pry into his personal life.

The church should have the right as a private institution to select various qualities it would like to see in its employees, but Besore said a situation like Diehl's wouldn't happen under his watch.

If the Mattoon First Presbyterian Church had a gay music director, he could still play piano on Sundays.

Besore said even if Diehl had chosen to be celibate, it's an issue that is difficult to prove.

"The music director just couldn't win," Besore said.

The Downer's Grove church didn't choose to ask Diehl to leave because of his attitude, his lack of compassion or because he just couldn't teach music.

The church didn't exercise its right to choose who taught music right away. It waited 13 years,

and did it because of orientation. By this time, Diehl had made an impression, taught music and piano and brought members to the suburban Chicago congregation.

Once Diehl left, members of the congregation said they were leaving too, according to an Associated Press article last month.

A lot of Christian religions view the homosexual lifestyle as immoral, so "I appreciate its a struggle for them," said Doug Dibianco, music professor and faculty advisor for Pride, Eastern's recognized student organization focused on gay, straight, bisexual and transgender issues.

But, "he's been doing it for 13 years so what's the problem?" Dibianco said.

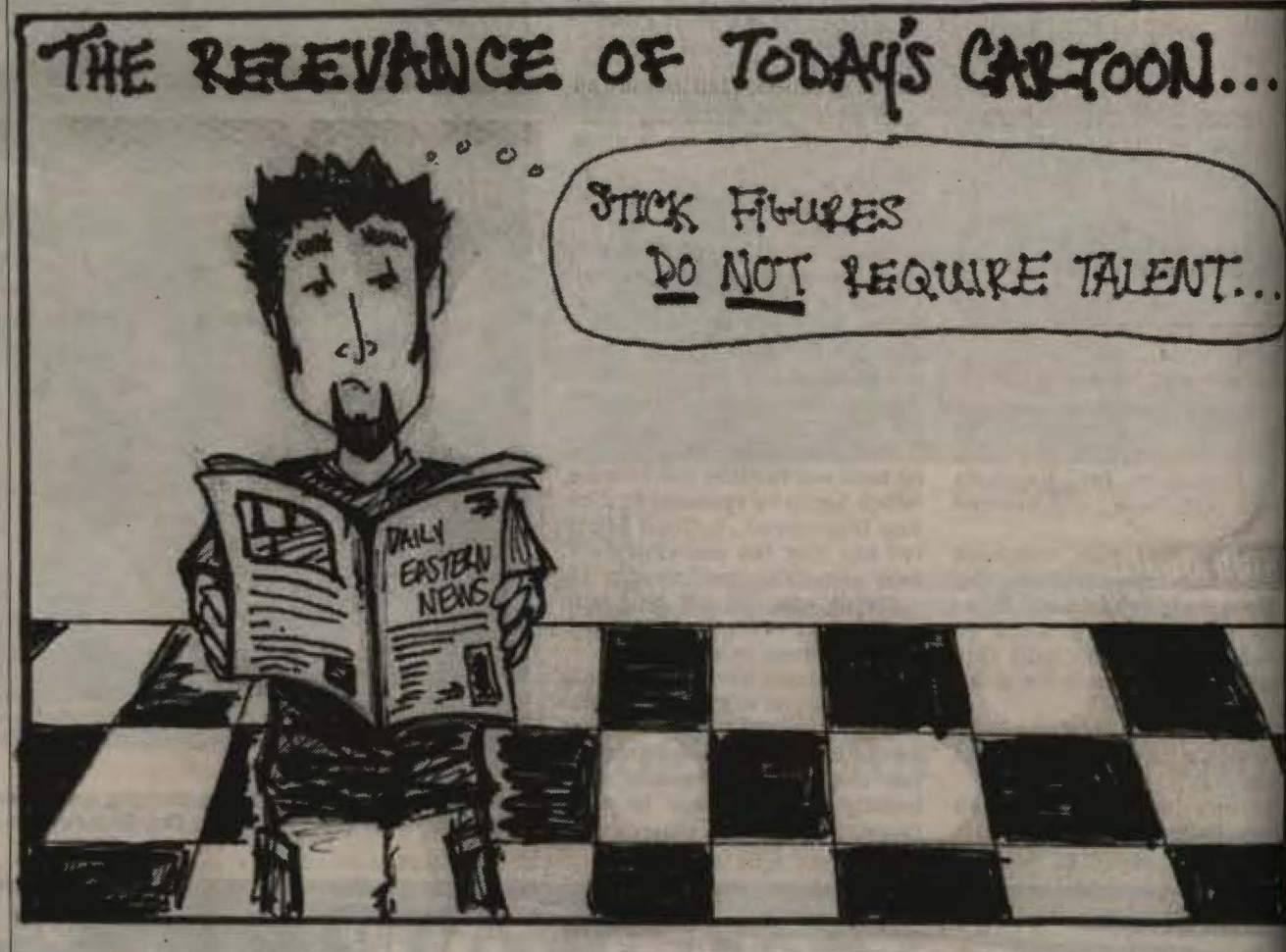
Taking someone away from an institution they've been working at for years will leave a hole, especially if those they leave behind don't understand the reason they left.

If an Eastern instructor was asked to leave, students would be left without someone that was put in that position because of what they had to offer. Students would be missing out.

It could never legally happen at Eastern, but students would be devastated if it did, DiBianco said.

Now, some kid in Downer's Grove doesn't have that familiar music instructor at a church he or she grew up attending. The congregation is missing out.

Cartoon by Becky Aurich



YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

God's relationship not confined to church

This letter is in response to Eric Thornton's column "Be concerned with living, not religion" that appeared in the Nov. 11 edition of *The Daily Eastern News*.

As I read the column, I was perplexed to see the contradictions within his belief system. While he allegedly could find comfort in someone who wears a cross, he does not believe that religion should impact our (his) everyday decisions.

He seems to be suggesting that we can benefit by thinking for ourselves rather than letting someone from the

pulpit think for us, and I agree.

However, my relationship with God does is not confined to the hour and a half I spend in church. My values, judgments, fears, hopes and decisions are based on what I believe would be in the best interests for myself, those I interact with and, most importantly, the God I believe created me.

While it is not appropriate for me to force my views on others (or attempt to do so), the love and respect I have for people comes DIRECTLY from the love and

respect I receive and cherish from my relationship with God.

Thornton, just like many others, needs to be aware of the fact that in order for me to live my life without hypocrisy, I must treat people the way I believe God wants me to.

This is a conscious choice I make every day, and is not

the result of any religious rhetoric or passionate speeches I have witnessed. It is my humble attempt to lead an honest life of integrity, which is and always will be rooted and grounded in my love for the Lord.

Deke Belden
graduate political science student

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The *Daily Eastern News* accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be less than 100 words and include the authors' name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, administration and staff should indicate their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed. Depending on space constraints, we may edit letters, so keep it copy. Letters can be sent to *The Daily Eastern News* at 1811 Buzzard Hall, Charleston, IL 61920; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to jfeasternnews@hotmail.com

Twista tickets selling at swift pace

Jessica Youngs
STAFF WRITER

Ticket sales are in full swing this week for the University Board's named Saturday performance by Chicago-based rap artist Twista. As of late last week and early this week, 1,500 tickets have been sold, said UB concerts coordinator Atamian. He said UB initially ordered this many tickets, but were forced to order even more because of student enthusiasm. The concert will be in McAfee Auditorium which holds 2,300 people.

Battle of the rappers

Students get to dual it out onstage at the Twista concert, see story pg. 6

The UB Concerts Committee is optimistic the show will sell out and pleased at the success thus far said Ceci Brinker, director of student life.

Even if the concert isn't a sell-out, Atamian said it won't be a problem.

"If it doesn't sell out, it will be a better show for those that do go," he said.

Brinker said students' attitudes

have been "upbeat and positive" about the Saturday show.

"(Twista) has been a big underground act for a while," Atamian said.

"He's pretty well known in the rap world."

Brinker said students that don't even know who Twista is, plan on coming to the concert with friends and family from home.

Twista's performance is the third major UB concert of the semester.

Traditionally, there are only two major acts brought to Eastern each semester, but Atamian said the price for Twista was "unreal."

"With his price, we really couldn't pass him up," he said.

Although the artist fee for Twista was \$57,000, enough tickets have already been sold to cover it, he said.

"The concert money has not been used because student support has made up for it," Brinker said.

Most of UB's major concerts are performed in Lantz Arena, but Twista is better suited to McAfee.

Brinker said because the performance is more of a smaller scale than a major show, McAfee is a more ideal venue.

Lantz has the possibility to hold up to 42,000 people, so the smaller

venue was much more conducive to the show, she said.

When acts are brought to Lantz, they require a lot of accommodation in the facility that wasn't available for Saturday.

Brinker said bringing a large act to campus requires moving around health and physical education classrooms and sports team practices.

She said UB was lucky that there was an open date in McAfee to have the unplanned concert.

Twista will perform at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 to the public and can be picked up at the door.

Pattern of low voter turnout doesn't prompt Illinois to scrap primaries

Carly Mullady
EDITOR

Low voter turnout has caused three states to cancel presidential primaries for 2004, but Illinois is currently following that trend.

According to an Associated Press story earlier this week, Kansas, Colorado and Utah successfully dropped their state-controlled primaries based on lack of funding and low public participation.

"States that are doing that are doing so based on the fact that no one's voting," State Senator Dale Righter R-Mattoon said. "Elections are expensive to pay for when voters don't vote."

According to state election board records from Utah and Colorado, presidential primaries have a very low turnout.

In 2000, Utah had a 19 percent voter turnout according to the governor's office's election statistics. Only 213,292 of 1,118,041 registered voters cast ballots.

According to its Secretary of State election records, primaries held in Colorado for the 2000 presidential election yielded only 735 ballots cast out of 792,034 registered voters.

The 11.2 percent voter turnout is considerably less than in Illinois.

Illinois State Board of Elections Official Vote Book statistics said 25.92 percent of registered voters took part in the 2000 primary.

Of 6,745,655 registered voters, 1,748,191 cast ballots that Spring.

Four years prior, 1,804,626 voters were present for the presidential primary. That is nearly 30 percent of the 6,125,044 registered.

"As a general principle, taxpayers are paying for the election process," Righter said.

"The state treats that like any other program out there."

When significant amounts of money are being spent on events with low turnouts, states are considering dropping them.

"At some point the elected representatives have to make a decision," Righter said.

Primary turnouts typically stay below 20 percent of registered voters, a percentage that is still higher than caucus turnouts.

Righter said states canceling primaries will most likely turn to caucuses to pick each party's presidential nominees. Caucuses are an "older style" of determining nominees, he said. "They are a great deal less expensive."

The Illinois Presidential Primary will be held in early March.

City Editor Carly Mullady can be



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Charleston residents watch the results of a recent election in the Coles County Courthouse.

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DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MCAULIFFE

Learning the ropes

Allison Staulcup, a junior speech communication major, puts on a condom as Jenny Winnie (right), a freshman graphic design major, and Emily Lawrence, a freshman art education major, look on. Staulcup had the Condom Club give a presentation on the proper way to put on a condom to her Carman Hall floor Wednesday night.

Play showcases two sides of one person

By Jessica Youngs
STAFF WRITER

It was a tale of two people. Wednesday night was opening night for 'Philadelphia, Here I Come' an Eastern Illinois University Theater play that paired what one man wanted to act like against his actual demeanor.

The play is the second fall production by the group at their temporary location, The Village Theater at 960 18th Street.

The play takes place in Ballyberg, Ireland in 1962, on the eve on young Gar O'Donnell's departure from the home he has known all his life to a new existence in Philadelphia.

The play's unique set-up allowed the audience to peek into both O'Donnell's private and public characters.

Director Jean Wolski said "Philadelphia, Here I Come" is fun because it allowed people to hear two sides of one person. O'Donnell's inner persona, portrayed by Timothy Travous, Jr., represented what O'Donnell was really thinking throughout the evening.

The outer persona of O'Donnell, played by Christopher J.M. Yonke, acted out O'Donnell's true actions.

Throughout the action of the play, contradictions between these two personas can be vividly experienced.

While O'Donnell's outer persona

sat awkwardly around his father S.B. O'Donnell played by Vin Dill, the inner persona called his "Screwball" and mocked his ignorance.

When alone, the two personas merged and allowed O'Donnell become the same person.

The first glimpse of this merged the audience witnessed was when O'Donnell acted out a daydream of his upcoming flight over the Atlantic Ocean.

Throughout the play, O'Donnell had to deal with sentimental feelings of his home and the people there. Still, he felt as though he didn't really know any of the people in town from his beloved Kall Doogan, played by Stephen Leasure, who married another man, to his misunderstood father who O'Donnell thought has never said anything unpredictable in his life. "We don't really know the people we are closest to," Wolski said about the play's primary theme.

Another audience member, Mike Clark, further analyzed the play. "(O'Donnell) lives in the past," said. "He'll never have a future because he's stuck in the past."

Wolski said the University Theater originally planned on doing an Irish play based on a short story by James Joyce.

But there was mix-up on getting the plays rights, so instead, the Theater chose Philadelphia, Here I Come," which mimicked the mood

7th Street Underground to transform into a rapper's delight

Student rappers will compete to earn chance to perform at Twista concert

By Kristan Larsen
STAFF WRITER

This Friday, 7th Street Underground will be turned into the rap world.

The rappers here on campus will be able to show their stuff on stage and go up against each other to receive the honor to be part of the opening act for the Twista concert the following day.

Twista, a Chicago-based rapper, is the University Board's third fall concert.

Monique Cookbey, graduate adviser for the UB, planned the event.

"UB has an open mic for students where poetry, rappers and singers can show their talents. The battle is a special event geared just towards rappers and is in correlation with the Twista concert this Saturday."

The doors open at 7:30, and students will be able to sign up for the competition on site. Only the first 25 MCs will be able to register, so anyone who wants to perform should arrive early.

Cookbey said that if there is a crowd, UB might allow more people to sign up, but there are no guarantees.

Once everyone has signed up, MCs will split off into groups of two, and each will be given the opportunity to free style about anything they want.

The beats will be provided by MC Kalib Searcy, who has DJ'ed at Illinois State University in Bloomington-Normal and the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana.

Searcy said D.J. Tumbleweed and another D.J. from Champaign will be "on the one's and two's Friday" spinning the beats that Searcy has already selected.

The beats will be the same for each pair of rappers, but each battle will have different beats so competitors cannot prepare before

the battle.

After each group performs, the audience will be allowed to scream and cheer, but the judges have the official final say on who will become the final four MCs. The winner of the battle will move on in the bracket, but Searcy is trying to make it so even a loser of a battle could make it to the final four.

"The judges will put into consideration what the audience thinks, but they will determine who makes it to the final four," Cookbey said.

The best four MCs will be contacted Saturday morning and will compete as an opening act for the Twista Concert.

This portion of the battle will also be free style. The prizes for

the winner are still yet to be determined, but there are possibilities of a meet and greet with Twista and tickets to the show. Searcy said the battle will decide who opens Twista, "who will carry the belt who will go home with their feelings hurt."

"Many of the artists battling look at the contest as an opportunity to showcase their talent in front of Twista and his associates," Searcy said. "I expect them to put on an unbelievable show."

Cookbey states there could be more going on than just a simple battle at 7th Street Underground.

"Who knows, maybe Twista will be there," Cookbey said. "You just have to come and see."

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BOT amends UPI contract, discusses wages

Wally Henschen
STAFF WRITER

The Board of Trustees amended the contract with the University Professionals of Illinois Friday as well as discussed wage raises for two other university unions. The UPI contract amendment reflected a provision concerning academic credit units for tenured faculty.

"It establishes a set number of credit units that are for non-instructional activity," said Bob Wayland, director of employee and labor relations.

Credit units given to tenured faculty for research and creative activity positively affect faculty and students, said UPI president Charles Delman.

The time for research and creative activity attracts teachers and

makes Eastern more competitive with other universities, he said.

Students benefit from teachers who have more experience due to increased credit units, Delman said.

Eastern also agreed upon a wage opener that increased the salaries of 17 employees of Teamsters Local 26 by 2 percent.

"The contract stayed intact; the wages just changed," Teamsters

business representative Tim Donovan said.

Eastern Teamsters representative Brent McCullough said the union had been scheduled to receive a 4 percent increase this year as well as last year. Because of the state budget crisis, the university had no funds available to follow through with the contract. Because the union does not fall under the prevailing weight sys-

tem, which means the state mandates the salary increase, the raise was not enacted.

"We were forced to settle for what we can get," McCullough said.

The BOT also voted to renew the contract of Carpenters Local #347 until April 30, 2006.

Eastern Carpenters representative Thomas Coffey said the union is satisfied with the vote.

String of new faculty members hired by university

Dominique A. Brown
STAFF WRITER

Eastern will be welcoming new faculty members next year.

Eastern is scheduled to hire 32 new track faculty members said Weber, acting associate vice president for Academic Affairs.

Weber said, as of now there are openings that are approved by the provost. The provost is in the process of deciding if there is room for one more faculty position, he said.

When applicants are hired as track faculty they are put on a system where for their first six

years of employment at Eastern they go through a probationary process. During the process each member is evaluated based on their teaching, research and service activity.

Each year the evaluation standards go up for the individual. If they make it through the process after the first six years they are awarded the title of tenure by the Board of Trustees.

"By being awarded tenure by the BOT there is an ongoing commitment between the faculty member and the board," said Weber.

"Once you're tenured, you

have proven that you are a quality faculty member."

According to Eastern's Web site, in order to be considered for a position, applicants must go through an employment process with a screening committee consisting of the chairperson of the department, the dean, the civil rights director and the vice president of the university.

The employment and recruitment procedures for faculty and academic support professional positions continuing and temporary policy says that before a spot can be filled a personnel authorization request form has

to be approved by the department chair, dean and vice president.

Also, a recruitment plan and vacancy announcement must be approved by the dean and civil rights director.

"The final decision is made once a recommendation goes through the department chair, to the dean, to the vice president to the provost," said Cynthia Nichols, director of civil rights.

Weber said, there will be seven people hired for the education and professional studies department, nine people for the sciences department, five for

the business and applied sciences department and 12 for the arts and humanities department.

"We have faculty in our department that are overloaded with classes, that is one of the reasons our department needs additional faculty," said Glenn Hild, chair of the art department.

Business chair Michael Boorum is also excited to get new faculty in his department.

"We have our fingers crossed that there are no more governmental cut backs, because with cut backs comes no new employees," Boorum said.

RHA to conduct date auction to raise scholarship money

Brian O'Malley
STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORTER

The Residence Hall Association will hold a date auction to raise money for two scholarships.

RHA President Nachel Glynn said RHA hopes to raise \$1,300 for the two scholarships during an auction in which dates with various students will be given away at 8 p.m. Thursday in the basement of Andrews Hall.

Glynn and other RHA executives will be among those up for bidding, Glynn said.

Jenn Anderson, vice president for diversity and programming,

said the auction is a good way to raise money and many students get involved.

"It's for a really good cause," Anderson said. "As long as it's to benefit someone else, I have no problem with it."

Anderson said she volunteered to be in the auction and won't be embarrassed if she receives a low bid.

"If no one buys me, I'll buy myself," Anderson said.

The Sean McKinney Scholarship is given to an on-campus freshman, while the Brad Wright Scholarship is given to an upper classman, Glynn said. Both

scholarships are given to students who show excellence in leadership.

Glynn said she will present a housing adviser of the year award to RHA Advisor, Jody Stone during RHA's weekly meeting. The award is given by the Great Lakes Affiliation of College University Residence Halls, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan and Ontario, Glynn said.

Stone was selected because of a bid given by RHA to the affiliation, Glynn said.

"We bid for him because of his dedication and willingness to help

advances of RHA here at Eastern," Glynn said.

Stone, who found out Saturday he would get the award, said other people helped him win. Glynn and other RHA members made an oral presentation to the affiliation on why he should receive the award.

"It has a lot to do with the people around me," Stone said. "It was a team effort."

Stone said his win came as a surprise and there was a lot of competition for the award.

"There's a lot of outstanding advisors out there," Stone said. "Obviously I'm humbled. I'm flat-

tered."

A new National Communication Coordinator/Illinois Communication Coordinator in RHA will be selected and will begin his or her term in June 2004. LaKya Hill and Peter Salvatori are the two nominees running for the position and hope to take the title from Megan Stepp, current NCC/ICC.

"I feel very fortunate about having the position and I want someone to have the opportunity I had," Stepp said.

The Residence Hall Association meets at 5 p.m. Thursdays in the basement of Andrews Hall.

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MATRIX: REVOLUTIONS (R) Daily 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00
RADIO (PG) Daily 4:30, 7:15, 9:40
RUNAWAY JURY (PG13) Daily 5:15, 8:20
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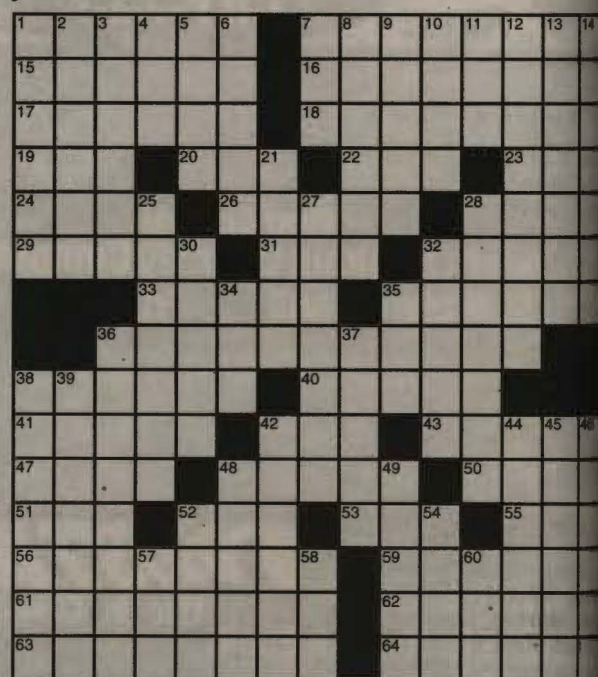
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

- ACROSS**
- 1 Common cavalry emblem
- 7 Swings violently
- 15 Stinger
- 16 Detroit's founder
- 17 Desk item
- 18 How some analgesics are administered
- 19 Olympian, e.g.: Abbr.
- 20 Disney dwarf
- 22 Put a lid on it
- 23 Flight stat.
- 24 Butts into
- 26 Some church music
- 28 Lacking pizzazz
- 29 Wood strips
- 31 Bristle
- 32 "You Don't Mess Around With Jim" singer, 1972
- 33 Bob Marley fan
- 35 Sawyer and others
- 36 Like the technology of 1-, 7-, 63- and 64-Across, and 1-, 14-, 38- and 46-Down?
- 38 In the bucks
- 40 "Holberg Suite" composer
- 41 Took steps
- 42 Passing mark
- 43 Allude
- 47 "Hud" Oscar winner
- 48 Symbol of hotness
- DOWN**
- 1 Aviation hazards
- 2 Like some blood passages
- 3 The Creator, to Hindus
- 4 "Star Trek" rank: Abbr.
- 5 Pastoral pipe
- 6 Late Sen. Thurmond
- 7 Places to go in England?
- 8 Transpire
- 9 Dunderhead
- 10 Pub purchase
- 11 Org. in 70's news
- 50 Singer with attitude
- 51 Poly
- 52 Convention's end?
- 53 Tango requirement
- 55 Pince-
- 56 Like some cookware
- 59 White rabbit, e.g.
- 61 Feeling more pins and needles
- 62 Police attacker
- 63 Wrestling hold
- 64 Shed items

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

S	H	E	M	O	N		S	H	O	S	S	I	O	S
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S	M	V	S	D	I	H	M		S	H	E	B	V	S



Puzzle by Elizabeth C. Gorski

- 12 Unaccompanied
- 13 "60 Minutes" regular
- 14 Sights in Sargent's "Reapers Resting in a Wheatfield"
- 21 South American animal
- 25 Fruit-filled pastry
- 27 Sounded like a steel guitar
- 28 Gasconaded
- 30 Full-plus
- 32 Jug filler, maybe
- 34 Regular: Abbr.
- 35 "Agnus ____"
- 36 Italian composer Alfredo
- 37 Receive
- 38 High, narrow windows ending in arches
- 39 Like some currents
- 42 Life's work
- 44 Limited
- 45 Plane, e.g.
- 46 Popular Christmas gifts for deck
- 48 Sun: Prefix
- 49 Bunch
- 52 Denizens of the Sargass Sea
- 54 Miscellany
- 57 Classic sports cars
- 58 Rx writers
- 60 Violist's purchase

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City plans watery construction

By Carly Mullady
EDITOR

better tasting drinking water be less than two years away. The construction period is 18 months," Mayor Dan Coughill said. "That clock is supposed to start this month."

Coughill said meetings with the city engineer, River City Construction, L.L.C. of Benton, design engineers Crawford, Murphy and Tilly, Inc. and city council members will begin this and next week.

These pre-construction meetings will determine who is doing what, when.

"We would like to see construction start this year," Coughill said. The 18 months is assuming we get started this year."

Contractors will be tearing down the current water treatment plant utilities building and building a larger, more efficient treatment plant on that land. "We have to keep treating water during construction," Coughill said.

The current plant will remain operational throughout construction.

"We did not meet turbidity standards. It had nothing to do with the water not being safe to drink."

—Dan Coughill, Charleston mayor

The entire redevelopment decision sparked in response to federal Environmental Protection Agency requirement changes.

"We did not meet turbidity standards," Coughill said. "It had nothing to do with the water not being safe to drink."

The city was forced to decide between modifying the current plant and developing a new one.

Coughill said meeting the requirements with the existing plant could have been both more difficult and more costly than constructing a new water treatment plant.

Beyond the ozone aspect, Coughill said the treatment process will change very little.

"How much contact time, how much time is spent treating water will significantly change."

These plans should greatly increase water quality.

"We want to make the best water in the state of Illinois, and we think we can do that," Coughill said in a previous interview.

City editor Carly Mullady can be reached at LoisLayne83@aol.com.

Senator:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Revisiting his roots

Teaching at Eastern marks a return for Righter to his higher education roots.

The Mattoon native graduated from Eastern in 1988 with a degree in accounting. Though this is his first semester as an Eastern instructor, Righter said he previously taught two political science courses at Lake Land College in Mattoon from 2000 to 2001.

"I do it when I can," he said. "I enjoy (teaching); it's obviously different work than the legislative work."

In fact, Righter said he initially pursued the opportunity to teach at Eastern.

Richard Wandling, chair of the political science department, said Righter first expressed interest early last summer.

"His expression of interest happened to coincide with the department's need to provide more seats for incoming freshmen in American government classes," Wandling said.

Corresponding to favorable comments made by Righter's students, Wandling said he has heard only complimentary remarks about Righter's classroom performance.

Despite this praise, Righter said it is unlikely he will teach a course at Eastern next semester.

"It will be very difficult for him to break away from his duties in Springfield during the spring semester," Wandling explained.

Next semester, Righter's senatorial duties will require him to spend a lot of time in Springfield when the Illinois General Assembly convenes for its spring legislative session that runs from January to May.

With the exception of the six-day veto session held in Springfield during the first part of November, Righter said his less demanding legislative role this semester has granted him ample time to teach a class.

Whether Righter will continue to teach political science courses at Eastern has yet to be determined.

But for the time being, Wandling said Righter's students are lucky to have an educator who possesses such an interesting background and is actively involved in the "trenches of politics."

the first exam, Righter listened intently as a few students presented their political-related articles to the class. Each brief presentation was followed by open-class discussion.

Illustrated by Righter's prodding students to speak up, the two and a half-hour class resembled a casual symposium more than a structured lecture.

"He's not like the typical teacher who lectures," said Allyson Gates, a freshman dietetics major. "He listens to the students a lot more."

That's the goal, Righter said.

"I try to get the students to open up, discuss, debate," Righter said. "You can have the greatest ideas in your head, but if you're not willing to speak up about it, it doesn't do much good."

At one point during class, Righter asked the students for their preference as to the structure and dates of upcoming tests, quizzes and the 1,500-word paper.

"I'm going to give you guys a choice," he said to the students' approval.

Suddenly a voice from the back left corner of the room blurted out: "Let's have a vote!" So they did.

"I was amazed the first couple of classes how many students were involved in discussion," said Kathy Chancellor, a Board of Trustees bachelor of arts student. "Ninety-five percent of the students have actually spoken in class."

Chancellor, who has two daughters who also attend Eastern, signed up for the class upon discovering Righter's senator status through her job in academic scheduling.

"He knows the stuff; he's not reading verbatim from the book," she said. "How he presents the info, he gets us thinking."

While talking about material ranging from Miranda rights to cruel and unusual punishment, Righter asked several times if the students understood what he was saying.

"If someone has a question, he's real good at elaborating," said Tom Tovelio, a sophomore accounting major.

In addition to employing real-life anecdotes and examples from his political background, Righter used an animated demeanor and lots of hand gestures to grab the attention of his class.

"He's got the greatest facial expressions," Gates said of Righter's exaggerated looks of puzzlement and surprise.

Throughout class, Righter repetitively pulsed his hoisted right hand while emphasizing important points.

"He's excited about what he teaches and tries to make it interesting for the class as well," said Jessica Ruddicks, a freshman English major.

Three members close to being removed from Senate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

ings, Spoken Word events and even several movies, Zegler previously said.

If a senate member accumulates three absences, they are automatically removed from the Student Senate, Zegler said.

The senate members who didn't meet the requirements are Fox, Bryan Johnson, who resigned from the senate earlier this semester and Josh Jewett, one of the senate Tuition and Fee Review Committee.

Fox said he thinks the requirements are important, but he forgot when the requirement deadline was.

Zegler said the requirement

had to be met by Oct. 19.

"I basically just forgot about it," Fox said. "It would have been a good opportunity for me."

Fox said the requirement gives senate members a way to represent students more efficiently.

"To actually represent the students, you have to be diverse so you can represent all students," Fox said.

The Student Government Governance Review Committee, lead by Student Body President Caleb Judy, is researching ways of improving the diversity requirements, Zegler said.

"The Governance Review Committee is looking at ways of maybe revamping this diversity requirement bylaw," she said.

The Governance Review Committee made a report of possible changes the Student Senate can make, which included a section about the senate Diversity Affairs Committee and the diversity requirements.

The report from the Governance Review Committee

"I define diversity by stepping out of my comfort zone."

—Nancy Zegler

said it wants to review the focus of the diversity committee and help develop its duties and responsibilities.

The report also includes a section that suggests the senate evaluate the effectiveness of the diversity requirement and how to promote diversity within the senate.

Zegler said senate members shouldn't be forced to be diverse because some aren't comfortable going to the events.

"I define diversity by stepping out of my comfort zone," Zegler said. "Some people aren't comfortable with stepping out of their comfort zone."

Tuition:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

For U of I, the increased tuition would bring in \$25 million and would allow the university to restore 480 courses, 80 faculty members, 160 teaching assistant and 40 instructors, a Nov. 11 St. Louis Post-Dispatch article reported.

Last year, Eastern did not fire

any faculty while it attests almost every student had a full slate of courses.

"We're always watching other state school's tuition against our own," said Blair Lord, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "... but there is a certain similarity to how institutions will handle this."

Hencken said there is a 99.9 percent chance Eastern will implement two tuition rates, one to new

students and the other to continuing ones. The tuition funds, generated locally by the university and spent by the university, are important because if state funds take another leap for the worst, finding areas to slash the budget could be difficult.

"We've cut fat, muscle. We've cut to the bone," Hencken said. "I don't know where we could additionally cut."

Wolf:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

ping to retire when he first started working but started planning for retirement a couple years ago.

The state of Illinois requires people planning to retire to do some paper work so there has been some planning but not too much, Wolf said.

Wolf has been director of admissions for almost 20 years and in that time has seen a turnover in people working on campus.

Wolf is 55 but he said he feels younger.

"My clientele has been 18, 19, 20-year-olds," Wolf said. "My staff tends to be between the ages of 25-30. Everyone I deal with tends to be relatively young. My job keeps me young."

In those years Wolf said he has had his good times

and bad.

Wolf said he has enjoyed watching the school and its evolution in the last few decades.

When the school gets a new building or a sports team does good in a tournament Wolf gets excited.

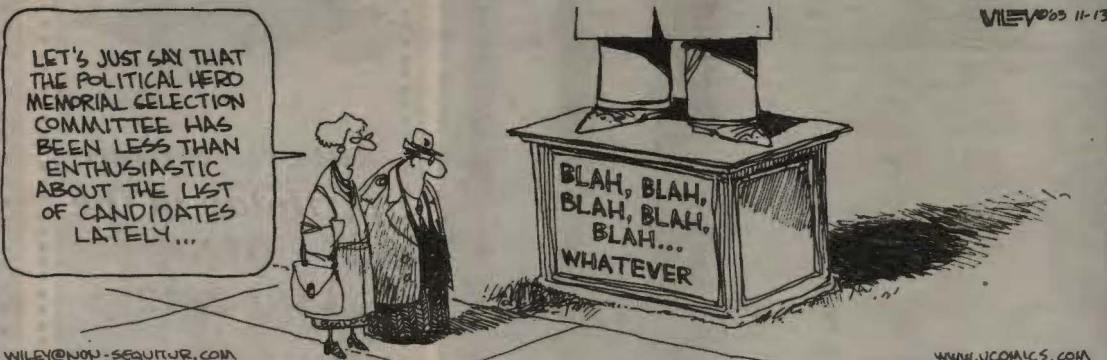
The best part of his job is seeing the graduates that stayed at Eastern for all four years and knowing he had a hand in their decision to choose Eastern, he said.

"These are major things and they are good for the school," Wolf said.

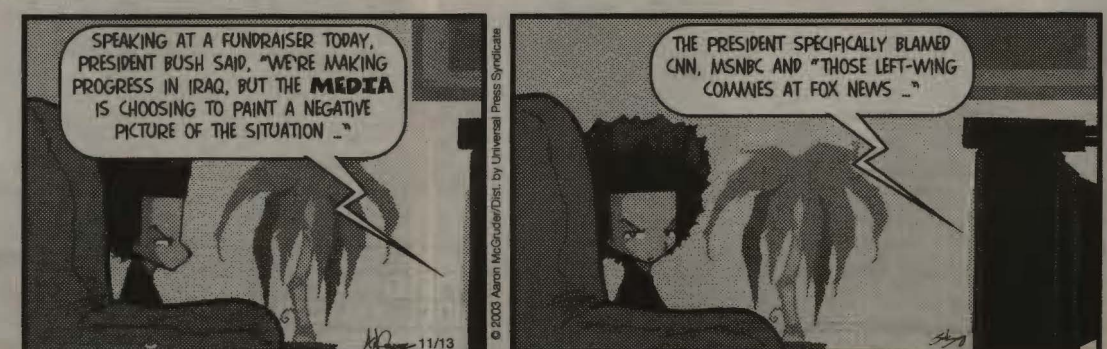
There will be a search for the new director of admissions starting in December. Academic affairs will announce next week who is on the search committee.

Wolf said he will stay the entire year to allow the university ample time to find the right person to fill his position.

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY MILLER



BOONDOCKS BY AARON MCGRUDER



WOMEN'S SOCCER

There's no place like home

◆ Eastern assistant coach

Kristen Boeker will return to her old stomping ground for NCAA first round contest

By Matthew Stevens
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Eastern assistant coach Kristen Boeker proves that one can go back to school again. Boeker will return to her alma mater in Columbia, Mo., as her new squad at Eastern will prepare to survive and advance in the NCAA College Cup against Missouri.

"I'm thrilled to get a chance to return to Missouri, and it will be exciting for the friends and family to see my team live," Boeker said.

Only, this time one crucial aspect will be different for the Boeker faithful that make

the trip to Columbia.

"They will be there wearing the Panther blue this time," Boeker said.

There is no question where Boeker's loyalty resides as her team prepares for tournament action this week.

"I was a Tiger but now I couldn't be happier as a Panther," Boeker said.

Boeker received All-Big 12 Conference honors in each of her four years as a player in the Tiger program.

The Panthers' assistant coach got an opportunity to compete against her former school earlier this year, but Eastern dropped the non-conference game 3-2 in overtime.

"We've already played on that surface and competed against Missouri so we feel comfortable with this matchup," Boeker said.

Boeker hasn't received the jokes from her players about being a former Tiger, but

the faculty and coaching staff has let her know she bleeds blue and white now.

"The jokes have been around the office but the team hasn't even brought up that I was a Tiger," Boeker said.

Boeker says head coach Steve Ballard and she look up all national scores on Sunday and Monday but she doesn't specifically keep track of Missouri's progress.

"Just because I'm a graduate of Missouri doesn't mean I go on MU's web site to check scores," Boeker said.

This is the third straight season the Panthers have qualified for the NCAA College Cup and Boeker is proud of her seniors that have gotten to taste the experience on a consistent basis.



Kristen Boeker

"Players like Beth Liesen, Teri, Lori who have worked so hard to build this program up to national significance," Boeker said.

When the bracket was announced this week, Boeker had the look of amazement on her face and was astonished at what she'd seen.

"I just couldn't believe it because of all the places to play I didn't think we were headed to Missouri," Boeker said. "It will be a different experience from Notre Dame."

"Everybody in the tournament deserves to be there and we did get more respect this time around, but the bracket isn't easy at all," Boeker said.

Overall, Boeker is excited to participate as a coach in a do-or-die situation at her former school.

"The key to tournament play is you have to bring it all or go home," Boeker said.

Gilbert:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

The junior is third on the team in kills at 218 and has been a great third scoring option this season.

But for the Panthers to truly be successful next season, much pressure will fall on Welch. This season, the freshman has impressed many with her play including the person who counts the most - Winkler.

"Mary has improved in every aspect of the game," Winkler said. "She's raised

her hitting percentage and has become a better blocker."

Welch has put up above average numbers despite playing a position (left side) she is not accustomed to. Primarily a right outside hitter at Marian Catholic High School, Welch has adjusted to the left side and even the back row on defense because of team needs.

"I didn't anticipate Welch would be playing the left side, but we had some weaknesses and had to put her there," Winkler said. "No matter where she plays

Mary will always improve."

Throw in fellow freshman Kara Sorenson (1.15 kills per game), sophomore Megan Kennedy (1.93 kills and .193 hitting percentage) and super-sub Aja Kohlbecker, and the Panthers should be on the verge of a breakout season.

Hopefully I can be granted a mulligan for my prediction this year. However, next year one won't need a crystal ball to see the Panthers can "make some noise" or be "a key team in the OVC".

after averaging 3.6 ppg and finishing second on the team with 35 steals in her freshman season.

The return of four starters from last years squad is not the only bright spot heading into the season.

The addition of freshman forward Meagan Scaggs has also been a highlight during the team's preseason preparation.

Coach Wunder said Scaggs has been an impact player up until this point and that she has adapted well to the college game.

With the season opening Nov. 21 the Panther's hope to capitalize on playing three of their first four games at Lantz Arena to open the season.

"We expect our team to have the best year since I have been here and we hope to challenge for the OVC title," Wunder said.

Veterans:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

"We have not excelled in our team defense," Wunder said. "A big focus has been on improving our overall team defense and rebounding."

Last year, Panther opponents had 161 more rebounds and 52 more steals.

On a higher note, Eastern had 37 more blocked shots, which could increase with O'Connor's return.

Rounding out the returning starters is senior forward Katie Meyers and sophomore guard Ashley Kearney.

Meyers averaged 8.4 ppg and tied for the team lead with 24 blocks in 23 games last season.

Kearney rounds out the three-guard set

Bulls get second road win at Boston

BOSTON (AP) — After only four road games, the Chicago Bulls have already matched their away-from-home victory total from last season.

Jalen Rose scored 20 points and Eddy Curry added 16 points and 14 rebounds Wednesday night as the Bulls defeated the Celtics 89-82 for their third road victory.

Chicago, 3-1 on the road, finished 3-38 away from home in 2002-03.

"We're road warriors, huh? That's one hurdle we wanted to conquer this year and the guys have been real focused," Bulls coach Bill Cartwright said. "I'm just really happy. I thought our guys were focused and carried out the game plan."

The Bulls never led by more than seven points in the second half until Jamal Crawford capped an 11-2 run with a jumper and a 3-pointer that gave them a 76-65 lead with 9:31 left.

The Celtics responded with a 13-4 spurt, and Mike James made his sixth 3-pointer of the night with 4:12 left to pull Boston to 80-78. But Paul Pierce missed a fadeaway jumper, and the Bulls pulled away by going 9-of-12 on free throws down the stretch.

"I think Chicago played the type of game that deserves a win in the NBA," Celtics coach Jim O'Brien said. "They played a tough-minded, very physical game."

Rose started in place of Eddie Robinson after coming off the bench in Chicago's previous two contests.

Not only did he spark the Bulls offense, he held Pierce to 14 points on 4-of-15 shooting.

"Paul Pierce is a great player. No one player can stop him. I just did a good job trying to contain him and make him work for every inch of the floor," Rose said.

Chicago led 23-21 after the first period, behind 12 points from Kendall Gill, who was 5-of-6 from the floor in the opening period.

The Celtics took their final lead of the night, 44-42, on a 3-pointer by James with 1:18 left in the second period. Rose responded with a 3-pointer on Chicago's next possession, and the Bulls led 47-44 at the break.

James had 18 points and Pierce 14 for the Celtics, whose modest two-game winning streak was snapped.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Show me Mo talent at Eastern

Panthers sign a Missouri recruit during the NCAA early signing period to play at Eastern next season

Matthew Stevens
SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR

Panther fans will certainly have a reason to pay attention to a small high school in Missouri.

Foot-8 forward Jake Byrne from Berry, Mo., High School has signed a national letter of intent to wear the blue and white of Eastern next season.

"We're excited to have Jake signed into our program," Panthers head coach Rick Samuels said.

Byrne averaged a double-double last season as a junior in high school with 20.4 points per game, 11.6 rebounds and two blocks. However, the Eastern coaching staff followed his progress through the St. Louis AAU system where he played with and

against nationally ranked high school talent. "Coach (Steve) Weemer did a great job identifying Jake and doing the majority of the recruiting," Samuels said.

According to scouting reports on Byrne put out by HoopsOasis.com, though not a great athlete, Byrne uses his 220 pound frame very well in the post.

"Jake already has the frame to play at the Division I level," Samuels said.

Byrne also has the ability to hit the outside jump shot.

"Jake has an inside-outside type of game by proving he could rebound with authority and have a nice touch around the hoop," Samuels said.

Byrne chose Eastern over Missouri-Kansas City, Wagner, Dartmouth, Indiana-Purdue-Fort Wayne, Yale and Pennsylvania.

Byrne was being highly recruited by three Ivy League schools because of his 4.0 grade point average and a 32 ACT score.

"Jake is very excited about the educational opportunity he will receive here at Eastern," Samuels said. "We've always tar-

geted the St. Louis area because we are recognized academically."

The current Eastern player that Byrne could be compared to in the sense of physical size and style of play is Jesse Mackinson. "We've compared him very closely to Jesse, and right now he's bigger than Jesse was his freshman year," Samuels said.

Byrne becomes the third member of the St. Louis-based AAU program to make his college decision, following commitments by 5-foot-9 point guard Paul Paradoski of St. Louis, Mo., Vianney High School to Southeast Missouri State, and 6-foot-5 shooting guard Luke Meyer of Washington, Mo., St. Francis Borgia High School to Saint Louis.

"In his AAU ball, the one thing we noticed was his ruggedness in the fact that he can take contact and deliver it too," Samuels said. "People will definitely be saying 'I want to play with Jake now that he has signed with us.'"



Jake Byrne's Career Statistics

Elaborary (MO) H.S. PPG	RPG
Sophomore	12.5 5.5
- AP Second Team All-State	
- All-District, All-Eastern Missouri Conf.	
- 28-4 record, Class 2 state runner up	
Junior	20.4 11.0
- AP First Team All-State	
- All-District, All-Eastern Missouri Conf.	
- 25-3 record, Class 3 state runner up	
- 63% from the field	
- 73% from the foul line	

SWIMMING

Panthers draw Purple Aces at home



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MCAULIFFE

Yaren O'Toole performs in the women's 200 freestyle Saturday afternoon in Lantz Natatorium. O'Toole was also on the second place 400 yard free relay team.

Lamon Woods
STAFF WRITER

Fresh off decisive meets against Western Illinois and first place finishes in the Panther Invitational, the Eastern swim teams go into Saturday's meet with Evansville, confident, but definitely not cocky.

Last week saw the men and the women tally their largest point totals (146 and 145 respectively), and head coach Ray Padovan credits that to consistently performing better week after week.

"We just try to keep swimming well, and let the scores take care of themselves," Padovan said. "We try to get better as the season continues."

Get better is definitely what both teams have done. The men (2-2) won their second meet of the year at Xavier, and have won two meets as of late, one being a tournament. The women (1-3) started off a little slow, but have come on as of late, also winning two meets.

Both teams have gotten equal contributions from all their swimmers, but none have been more important than freshman Ben Senese for the men and senior Jordan

Sherbrooke for the women.

Senese has had first place finishes in the 500-yard freestyle in all of the Panthers' first four meets. Along with senior Rich Wahlgen (200-yard freestyle) and junior Tom Watson (1000-yard and 500-yard freestyles), Senese has consistently lead the Panthers, individually and as a part of relay teams.

Most coaches would expect that much out of Wahlgen and Watson, being as experienced as they are, but not many would expect Senese to come in his first year and contribute as much as he has already. Not even him.

"I didn't expect to be performing this well, this early in my first year," Senese said. "I knew I had it in me, but I didn't expect it this early."

Padovan also knew that Senese had it in him to be a good swimmer at the college level, but he also did not expect his contributions to be this big this early.

"He was good in high school, and he has just continued to get better and better," Padovan said. "We even have him swimming some different things then he was in high school, and he's been just great for us."

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SPORTS

Panther sports calendar

FRIDAY	Volleyball at Tennessee-Martin	7 p.m.
SATURDAY	X-Country NCAA Regionals at Oklahoma State	
	Swimming vs. Evansville	1 p.m. Lantz
	Volleyball at Murray State	2 p.m.
	Football at Jacksonville State	4 p.m.
	M Basketball vs. International Select	7:05 p.m. Lantz

TEERING
OFFMichael Gilbert
SPORTS
REPORTERVolleyball
team has a
good future

With the matches winding down for Eastern volleyball, it appears the team will miss post season play for the second straight year, but that doesn't necessarily mean this season was a disappointment in the least.

Currently, Eastern stands in a three-way tie for seventh-place, with Samford and Tennessee Tech, two games behind sixth-place Murray State. The top six teams get a spot in the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament, and to get in Eastern would need to win out and have Murray State lose out to have a chance.

Even if the above happens, Samford and Tennessee Tech could prevent the Panthers from gaining the sixth seed if they too win out. In other words, let's look forward to next year.

Now, I have to admit earlier this season I believed Eastern could contend for the OVC crown. Regular readers may recall an early October column in which I wrote "the Panthers should be a key team in the OVC" or the fateful sentence "don't be surprised if the Panthers make some noise in conference."

Maybe I got caught up with a few consecutive wins the Panthers reeled off, or possibly it was just the "homer" in me thinking Eastern could win the OVC. That obviously isn't going to happen this year. However, I see no reason the Panthers can't return to the NCAA Tournament in 2004.

Sure my prediction for this season was way off, but liken the current Eastern volleyball squad to the 2002 Chicago Cubs. Those Cubs finished near the bottom of the standings, but you knew success was right around the corner with young players like Mark Prior, Carlos Zambrano and Corey Patterson.

If you look at the Panthers' roster, there are only three upperclassmen and just one departing senior. The Panthers' front line should be extremely capable with Shanna Ruxer occupying the middle and Erica Gerth and Mary Welch on the outside.

"The future of EIU volleyball looks good," Panthers head coach Brenda Winkler said. "We're only losing one senior and we have a lot of talent returning."

Gerth is some of that talent and is of course Miss Volleyball on this here campus. Besides being the most exciting player on the team she is also the best. Gerth leads Eastern with 440 kills and 48 service aces. This past season she collected her 1,000th career kill and set a school record with 39 digs in one match. Barring an injury, the junior will have a chance to rewrite the Eastern record books her senior season.

With Gerth receiving much of the attention, Ruxer has quietly had a successful campaign herself. Among regulars, she leads the team in hitting percentage (.254) and blocked shots with 20.

SEE GILBERT ♦ Page 7

MEN'S BASKETBALL

A new Panther pack



Sophomore Josh Gomes practices his shooting during Wednesday practice at Lantz Arena. Gomes will be a scoring threat for Eastern this year.

♦ Eastern will attempt to surprise its Ohio Valley Conference opponents with a fresh look this season

By Aaron Seklitz
STAFF WRITER

As the college basketball regular season approaches, Eastern finds itself with a team that is both inexperienced and talented.

The Panthers have only two seniors on the team for leadership, but head coach Rick Samuels and his staff are excited about a group of fairly fresh faces they hope will surprise the Ohio Valley Conference this year.

Eastern does not boast of name recognition any longer but provides a team that is made up of players who are ready to make a name for themselves.

In the process, the Panthers will implement a different style of play as they adjust to the new strengths of the team. A year ago, Eastern's offense revolved around the set offense and mainly relied on the jump shot.

This year, the Panthers have an offense that is more balanced between its perimeter players and the people they have in the post. Instead of relying on the jump shot, these Panthers will have a more potent offense from the inside-out.

"There is no doubt that our offense is more balanced," Samuels said. "The big guys will be more of a factor for us this year because we have been working to initiate a true post up game."

The Panthers will have senior forward Jesse Mackinson to be the leader of the front court. But the test for Eastern up front with new players such as transfer Aaron Harrison who is currently a junior. He played two years at Triton Junior College and will be up against Division I opponents for the first time in his college career.

This could be a positive for Eastern, which hopes that Harrison and the rest of the team will surprise their OVC competition.

"Top to bottom our team is talented," Samuels said. "That is what I think we could surprise quite a few people this year."

The team may be talented, but they are also untested. The team will rely on sophomore guard Jesse Gomes to become a scoring threat from the perimeter. Also they hope that the rest of the young players progress throughout the year, and become factors as the season goes by.

"I think that we are a deeper team than we have been in awhile. Watching these guys grow as a team will be exciting," Samuels said.

With the deeper team, more competition throughout the roster will be the reason because many players are still in their level of play.

The Panthers will use the upcoming exhibition game against International Select on Saturday to get a better idea of what the main rotation will be when the regular season starts.

"We have ideas right now as to who will start, but it is not set yet," Samuels said. "We do know that we have seven or eight guys who could very well work their way into the starting lineup."

The youthfulness on this team leaves some questions to be answered as the team prepares to start the regular season. According to the coaching staff, patience will be needed because until the team grows together, many questions will remain unanswered.

The Panthers will open up the 2003-2004 season at the NCAA Convention Center as the Panthers will attempt to upset the preseason Mid-American Conference favorite Northern Illinois Huskies in Dekalb.

More inside

♦ Panthers sign a Mississippi recruit for next season.

Page 11

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Veteran cats key to Eastern wins

♦ With four returning starters, Panthers head coach Linda Wunder believes she will have the best team she's had at Eastern

By Jon Rule
STAFF WRITER

The experience of returning starters could be a key to the success of the 2003-2004 Panther women's basketball team.

After being ranked sixth in the Ohio Valley Conference preseason poll for the second consecutive season, head coach Linda Wunder and the Panthers hope to silence their critics and improve upon last year's 6-22 performance.

Entering her fifth year as head coach, Wunder is excited about returning four of her starters from last year.

Coach Wunder said returning a strong nucleus of starter for this season could be a big factor to the team's success.

The return of Pam O'Connor to the starting lineup after red shirting last season because of injury will give the Panthers a strong inside presence.

O'Connor's 18 points per game in the 2001-2002 season and 861 total points in her first two seasons at Eastern are third best in Panther women's basketball history.

O'Connor's scoring strength is just one attribute her presence will have on the Panther lineup, she is also expected to be a strong rebounding force after averaging

5.1 rebounds per game in 2001-2002 season.

In addition to O'Connor, last year's leading scorer Lauren Dailey returns for her final season in a Panther uniform.

Dailey was chosen to this year's Second Team Preseason All OVC team after having 36 steals, 87 assists and an average of 13.1 ppg in her junior year.

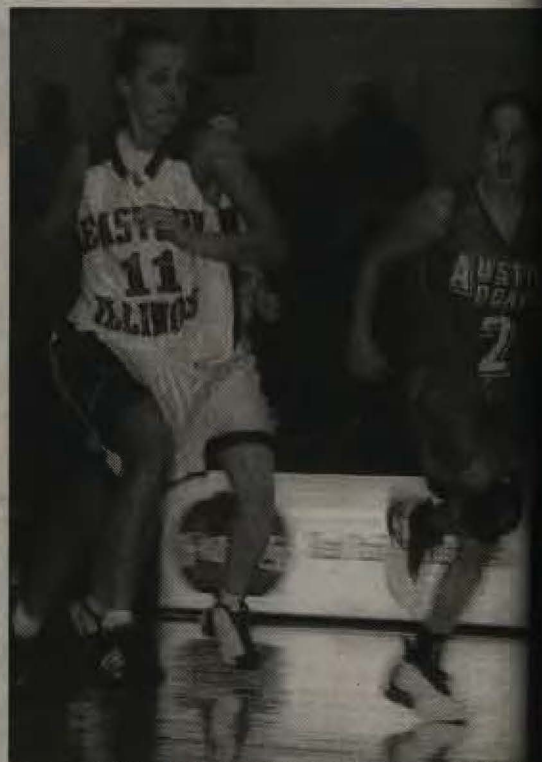
Joining Dailey at the guard position is sophomore Megan Sparks.

Sparks averaged 11.3 points and 4.6 rpg in her first year with the Panthers and was named to the All OVC Freshman Team.

The combination of Sparks and Dailey at the guard position and their performance could be pivotal to the overall success of the team, due to opponents double teaming O'Connor on the inside.

"A lot is going to depend on our point guard position," head coach Linda Wunder said. "Success at the point guard position determines a lot about how your team performs."

Wunder and her team have also been stressing defense and rebounding during their preparation for the season after last year's lackluster performance.



Sophomore Megan Sparks drives past Austin Peay defenders Feb. 20 at Lantz Arena last season. Sparks is the second highest scorer returning this season.

SEE VETERANS ♦ Page 7

WARNING!



RA CROSSING

Looking into the jobs of Carman Hall resident assistants

By Niki Jensen
STAFF WRITER

Allison Staulcup's brown metal door remained open as she chatted in her seventh floor room of Carman Hall.

Within the span of an hour, several girls glanced into Staulcup's brightly decorated space and voiced a friendly "Hi, Allison!" to the upbeat resident assistant.

It is this enthusiasm and sense of community that attracts Staulcup and other Carman resident assistants to their demanding positions at Eastern's primarily freshman residence hall.

"I've always enjoyed the community here at Carman," said the junior speech communication major and second-year RA at Carman.

Notorious for its wild freshman dwellers who party in packs and pull early morning fire alarms, Carman Hall boasts a festive atmosphere that third floor RA Cheryl Chmura described as fun and rambunctious at times.

"They come in so excited to do everything and see what college is like," explained Chmura, a junior psychology major. "It's fun for me that they want to do things."

As well as being eager, Staulcup said many residents are friendly and strive to get to know their floor-mates and supervisors

like her.

In fact, acquiring new pals in the Carman community is Staulcup's favorite aspect of her job. But in addition to camaraderie, monetary perks provide major incentives for the 17 Carman RAs.

RAs are provided a single occupancy room and the 15-meal plan free of charge – a total value of \$5,374 per academic year. RAs also receive monthly paychecks at the \$100 mark.

Despite these benefits, Staulcup said overseeing a floor in this amiable environment has its challenges – especially because the role of supervisor often blurs with that of friend.

"Sometimes it's hard to say what I'm doing for my job and what I'm doing as Allison," Staulcup said referring to gestures and actions in her everyday routine. "Sometimes it's like 'this resident is my friend too.'"

As for Chmura, this blending of roles can only be expected due to the emphasis Carman RAs place on building positive floor rapport to unite residents.

Earlier this semester, Chmura said her girls created a community agreement that outlined several things they wanted to do as a floor. Terms of the contract included keeping room doors open until 8 p.m. and maintaining a weekly floor dinner night.

Working round-the-clock

Juggling schoolwork and a social life with the task of fulfilling floor duties comes with the territory of being a Carman RA.

In an effort to promote floor interaction, Staulcup said she and fellow RAs are required to host floor programs ranging in scope from educational to entertaining.

Chmura previously held educational programs about suicide and the differences between the sexes while Staulcup recently organized a "Blast from the Past" program that featured candy and board games from the late 80s.

But with a limited program budget of \$100 a semester, plus an additional \$35 for finals week, Staulcup said lots of creativity and thriftiness goes a long way.

Low monetary resources encourage Chmura to stay away from pizza parties because "they seem to take about half of your budget," she said.

Staulcup said residents really respond to free food but agreed it is too expensive to provide refreshments at every program.

Carman's communal atmosphere is reflected by hall programs such as the "Get

Reservation dining returns to campus after 2 years

By Meagan Brusnighan
STAFF WRITER

After a two-year hiatus, it's back, and it's better than ever. Resurrected this semester at Stevenson Hall, reservation only dining is the only place on campus where students can get a real sit-down dinner.

"It's back by popular demand," said Mary Beals, assistant director of Tower dining. "We knew that we wanted to keep reserva-

tion dining open, but when Pemberton's dining center closed down two years ago, we had to decide where to relocate it."

Beals said that many students who made use of Pemberton's reservation dining services before are coming back now that it's been re-opened in Stevenson. Newer students are also showing up to try out reservation dining's weekend service.

"We're getting more students every week," said Beals. "The

word is getting out to the freshmen and other new students on campus."

According to Sarah Aldrich, the draw of an on-campus dining experience without the requisite plastic trays can be pretty strong.

"I go about once a weekend," said Aldrich, a sophomore special education major. "It's better food, and it's more like a real restaurant. I was very impressed the first time I went."

During the weekend evenings that Stevenson holds reservation only dinners, the dining service employees become waiters and waitresses. So instead of hauling trays of hot food to buffet lines, they carry plates and glasses to diners, who get to sit back and enjoy being waited on instead of having to serve themselves.

"It's kind of nice to be pampered every once in a while," said Katie McMullen, a senior elementary education major.

McMullen said she remembers when reservation only dining was at Pemberton, but she never went. "Because I live in Lincoln, now, it's right there. And the meals are a nice change from the deli style Stevenson usually serves."

Beals said that when a student calls to place their order, the party is assigned a certain time to arrive, and the staff tries to keep it to around 35 or 40 students booked for each half-hour.

Cover:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

drunk with your RA," an event during which residents learned about consequences of alcohol consumption by participating in a mock party busted by police.

Besides putting on programs, other main responsibilities include tending to residents' concerns, fulfilling night and weekend duty requirements, mediating conflicts between residents and preserving the order of the floor.

"It's a challenging job; it takes a lot of time and effort," said Ryan Reed, a second year associate resident director of Carman Hall who was a former RA at Colorado Christian University. "Basically, your priorities are dedicated to those on your floor."

Jones doesn't seem to take such responsibility lightly.

Expressing his gratitude for having a respectful floor, Jones said he likens himself to a mentor who is responsible for helping residents with the "little things like school-work."

"It's my job to show them how to be a good student at EIU," Jones said of his interpreta-

tion of what constitutes an exceptional RA.

Though Jones said he has not encountered any roommate conflicts this semester, Staulcup said girls on her floor confront her with roommate or floor concerns about once a week.

"It's not too tough; it's never gotten out of hand for me," she said.

Surprisingly, the three RAs interviewed said floor walks conducted during mandatory hall duty shifts have not revealed behavior too outrageous or rowdy on the behalf of Carman's occupants.

"I haven't really come across a lot of crazy things actually," Jones said. "Even though they're freshmen, they still follow the rules."

Staulcup said alcohol possession is common at Carman. But she has written just one alcohol-related violation while on floor rounds because residents usually conceal any possession and consumption of alcohol.

Earlier in the semester, Staulcup was worried her regulatory obligations would make it seem like she was out to get residents.

"We don't look around to get people in trouble," Chmura said. "We're just doing our job."

While each RA is on duty one night per week, plus several weekends throughout the

semester, the three RAs agreed duty shifts are not all that bad.

"It's only four weekends," Chmura said of the semesterly requirement that she remain on call and within the building from Friday evening to Monday morning with exception of going as she please either Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

"It is a good way to make sure you get your homework done," Staulcup said of having to remain within the confines of Carman.

Flourishing in a fish bowl

Sometimes life as a Carman RA is like being trapped in a fish bowl, Jones said.

"Everything you do represents you and the University," he said of the scrutiny that accompanies his role.

A similar obstacle for Chmura is making enough time for herself amidst the many demands of her job.

Leaving her room for quiet locations such as the library is a tactic Chmura often uses when doing homework and studying for tests.

Staulcup, on the other hand, is most productive during the wee hours of the night and early morning.

"I'm a real late night person so I usually have my stuff when everyone's sleeping and I'm around," she said.

Another way the RAs keep on track is by taking advantage of organizational devices such as calendars and schedule books that Reed dubbed "an RA's best friend."

"I love my calendar because I write everything down or I'll forget," Chmura said.

During stressful times, Jones said it is comforting to know he and other Carman RAs can, and do, confide in one other.

"I believe as a staff we're a very tight group," Jones said. "I look toward the second year RAs and ask them questions."

"We just kinda mesh together," Staulcup said of the staff she affectionately characterizes as outgoing, cooperative and funny.

"When you're an RA, other RAs become your support system because they understand what you're going through," Reed explained.

As illustrated by frequent hanging out and meals eaten together, Carman RAs enjoy being part of a group that seems to display much personality and spunk as the vivacious residence hall in which they keep order.

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- Better housing, better grades**
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LETTER TO THE STUDENTS OF EIU

Getting the most bang for your buck:

On-campus versus off-campus housing

On-campus living provides a number of advantages in comparison to living off-campus. These advantages include location, community, a long list of services, and, most notably, independence from tedious chores and monthly or unexpected charges.



A common misconception people have when comparing the residence halls and Greek Court to living off-campus is not recognizing all of the hidden costs associated with an off-campus apartment or house. Installation charges and monthly costs such as water, electricity, gas, trash removal, local phone service and cable television are all out of the landlords control and therefore usually not included in the advertised price for an off-campus rental property. The price advertised in an off-campus lease generally includes the cost of the housing accommodations only, leaving the question of how much these hidden monthly charges will cost you unanswered. Residence hall and Greek Court students don't have to worry about paying these hidden costs, because they're already included in the room and board contract. In short, when it comes to living on campus - one price does it all, and more often than not, the total cost of living in the residence halls/Greek Court is less expensive than living off-campus.

But don't take my word for it. If you are planning on looking at off-campus housing use the cost comparison worksheet just to the right of this letter and do the math for yourself. The worksheet contains an itemized list of costs associated with living on and off-campus. Pay special attention to the following points before using the worksheet.

TIPS FOR HOUSING HUNTERS:

1. Be honest with yourself when it comes to the cost of food. Budgeting yourself a paltry sum of money can only end in hunger. No one wants to live on rice and Cheerios® for a year when they don't have to.
2. Call the local utility providers about mandatory monthly service charges and hook-up or connection fees.
3. Ask the owner of the property to give you the average cost of monthly utilities. If he/she is unable to do so, ask the current residents what their lowest and highest utility bills were for each utility. If you divide the sum of the least and most expensive bills by two for each individual utility, you should be able to get a rough estimate of the average monthly utility costs.

Chad Franks
marketing & promotions specialist

<div><div></div><div>comparison worksheet</div></div>			
			
Economic Costs	Residence Halls & Greek Court	Alternate Option #1	Alternate Option #2
MONTHLY COST Rent	Included in Total Cost	x10= x12=	x10= x12=
AVERAGE MONTHLY COST Food	Included in Total Cost	x10= x12=	x10= x12=
AVERAGE MONTHLY COST Water	Included in Total Cost	x10= x12=	x10= x12=
AVERAGE MONTHLY COST Electricity	Included in Total Cost	x10= x12=	x10= x12=
AVERAGE MONTHLY COST Gas	Included in Total Cost	x10= x12=	x10= x12=
MONTHLY COST Trash	Included in Total Cost	x10= x12=	x10= x12=
MONTHLY COST Cable TV	Included in Total Cost	x10= x12=	x10= x12=
MONTHLY COST Local Phone Service	Included in Total Cost	x10= x12=	x10= x12=
ONE-TIME COST Water Hook-Up Fee	Included in Total Cost		
ONE-TIME COST Electricity Hook-Up Fee	Included in Total Cost		
ONE-TIME COST Gas Hook-Up Fee	Included in Total Cost		
ONE-TIME COST Cable Hook-Up Fee	Included in Total Cost		
ONE-TIME COST Phone Hook-Up Fee	Included in Total Cost		
ONE-TIME COST Security Deposit	\$50 (\$25 refundable)		
OPTIONAL COST Activity Fee	\$15	N/A	N/A
Total Cost	5 Plus Plan: *\$4,768/yr 10 Plus Plan: *\$4,980/yr 12 Plus Plan: *\$5,166/yr 15 Plus Plan: *\$5,374/yr	10 Month Lease ____/yr 12 Month Lease ____/yr DON'T FORGET TO ADD DINING COSTS	10 Month Lease ____/yr 12 Month Lease ____/yr DON'T FORGET TO ADD DINING COSTS

*Rates based on 2003-2004 double room academic year contract. University policy does not permit monthly rent. All residence hall residents currently have their one-time security deposit on-file, therefore it is not included in the total cost. The activity fee is optional, therefore it is not included in the total cost.

Heat included?

By Nicole Nicolas
WRITER

Whether students are looking for on-campus or off-campus housing, there are many different places to check out.

The best residence hall for upperclassmen to live on campus is Stevenson Hall because of its physical set-up of suites, said Mark Hudson, Director of University Housing and Dining Services.

The suite setup includes three double bedrooms, a common living room and a separate bathroom with a shower, which allows for more privacy and group living.

Ability to live in Stevenson Hall requires being 21 or having official junior status.

"My best friends are there. We have a 'home' time," said freshman Lawson Hall resident, Magdalyn Barrett, a history major.

"A lot of people I know live there, visiting is better than anywhere else and it's convenient," said sophomore Taylor Hall resident, English major Rachael Jonis.

Most off-campus complexes are currently leasing units now.

Towne Management has a total of 60 room units with one, two and three bedrooms, said property manager Teresa Williams.

"We're close to campus and we keep them clean," Williams said.

Rent for a three bedroom apartment is \$310 per person, a two bedroom is \$310 per person, and a one bedroom is \$450.

All apartments are furnished and utilities such as water, parking, trash, and laundry facilities on site are included in the rent.

Youngstown Apartments has 90 units. Their apartments are either located on Buckner Street or Cambridge Drive and are right off of Ninth Street.

Youngstown has recently been remodeled and has a good location and is quiet, said Leslie Patterson, property manager.

On average, rent for two, three, four or bedroom apartments at Youngstown is \$300 per student.

A one-bedroom apartment is about \$360 to \$400 a month, Patterson said.

Just two blocks away from Eastern is Lincolnwood Apartments.

The apartment floor plan, spaciousness and heat costs that are sometimes included with the apartments are just a few good things about Lincolnwood Apartments said property manager Sharon Turner.

Lincolnwood also has a swimming pool, sand volleyball and laundry facilities on the property. To rent out a two bedroom apartment, prices start at \$275 per student.

Currently, the three bedroom apartments are discounted at \$225 for all students, a one bedroom apartment is \$390 and a studio is \$345.

Lincolnwood Apartments are located on the corner of Ninth and Edgar Streets, which is right across the street from Carman Hall.

Students who aren't sure who they want to room with or if they want to live off campus might consider Brittany Ridge, since it starts showing a majority of its apartments at the beginning of second semester.

"I don't like pushing people right away," said property manager Jim Wood.

According to Wood, the utility bills are low, there are many good floor plans, convenient locations and some apartments rented out include cable TV.

"The positives are the price, large space, clean, close to campus, and lots of parking," said Brittany Ridge resident Don Knuckey, a junior history major.

Generally, apartments rent from \$200 to \$350 a person, but it varies, Wood said.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MCAULIFFE
Beth Kooyenga, a senior graphic design major, cuts potatoes for dinner late Tuesday evening. Kooyenga eats late due to working late.

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Patching up

By Jessica Youngs
STAFF WRITER

Before students arrived on campus for the school year, Eastern's Information Technology Services (ITS) were preparing the network for the rush of students expecting fast Internet connections for their brand-new computers.

Together with network consultants Teng and Associates, ITS started laying out a new fiber infrastructure and rewiring buildings.

But despite the improved technology, within days of the hectic move-in rush students found they could not even access the network, much less use it to check e-mail, download music or sign up for classes.

In a press release from Aug. 21, Chat Chatterji, president of ITS said, "The problem (was) unrelated to the nationally publicized worm/virus as well as the recent spate of spam."

The next day, Aug. 22, it was decided that the problems were in fact due to a worm coming in "via laptops, newly arriving PC's and possibly disks" causing "broadcast storms" Chatterji said.

Eastern's ITS team cleared each computer with "Operation Clean Sweep" and by August 25, most buildings were back online.

The effects of the worm were felt by everyone from students trying to register for classes online to faculty checking their e-mail.

Although Chatterji still notices occasional local flooding within a building or group of buildings, he said the problem is taken care of.

This is just one example of how Eastern's ITS has come through for its students.

The most common complaint ITS has received this year has been low bandwidth or Internet speed.

"The Internet is too slow and it messes up too much," Jennifer Harris said.

Harris, a freshman business management major, complained that the network has even stopped working while she was working on a major

project.

She said this has happened "quite frequently."

Matt Kilanski, a senior graphic design major, shares Harris' opinion.

"(The network) is slower than a snail," he said.

Kilanski said he noticed the worst time for doing reports is between 5 and 7 p.m. because that is when the Internet is the slowest.

Still, he said that he sees no point in complaining about the slow connection because he thinks it's not going to do any good.

Chatterji said at the moment one can expect to find ITS members working night and day to eliminate the bottlenecks with the Internet connection.

"The main reason for low speeds was the saturation of the network from mostly illegal file and music sharing," Chatterji said.

He said that this was taken care of with a "packet shaper" which puts file sharing at a very low priority.

Although nothing is "blocked," students are finding ways to get around the installed prevention measures.

"It's a constant cat-and-mouse

nately," Chatterji said.

ITS has also battled ongoing "balun" troubles from last year.

"(These troubles are) a result of an old network with temporary fixes which sometimes cause more problems than they solve!" Chatterji said.

He said that "current fragility" of the network is his greatest concern.

"This unstable condition will be with us for a year, or until the infrastructure project is complete."

This year, ITS's main focus in technological improvements will be creating this new fiber infrastructure and overhauling and replacing the building wiring for Category 6 high speed network cabling he said.

"This is what the (students') \$48 technology fee is going towards."

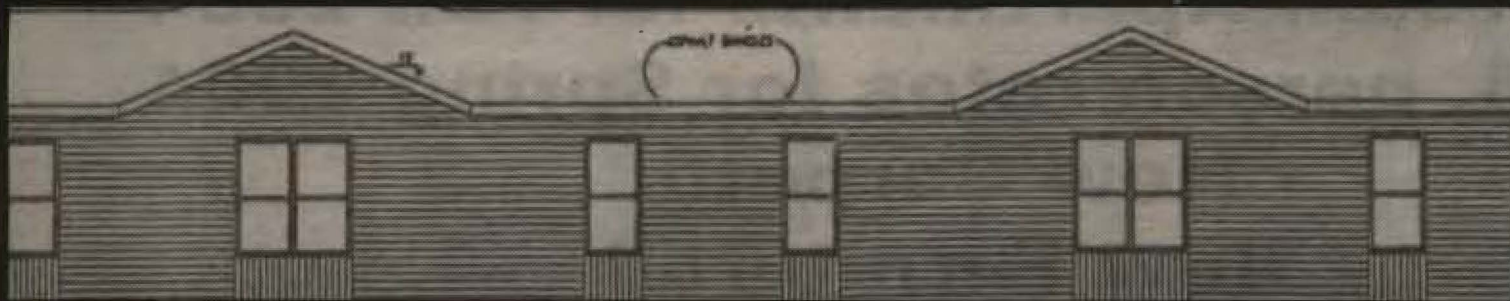
By Spring 2004, he said ITS hopes to have completed the fiber "backbone" and started on the building wiring.

"By Summer, we will have bought and installed a lot of the network electronic equipment which will be placed around campus and connected to the new infrastructure."

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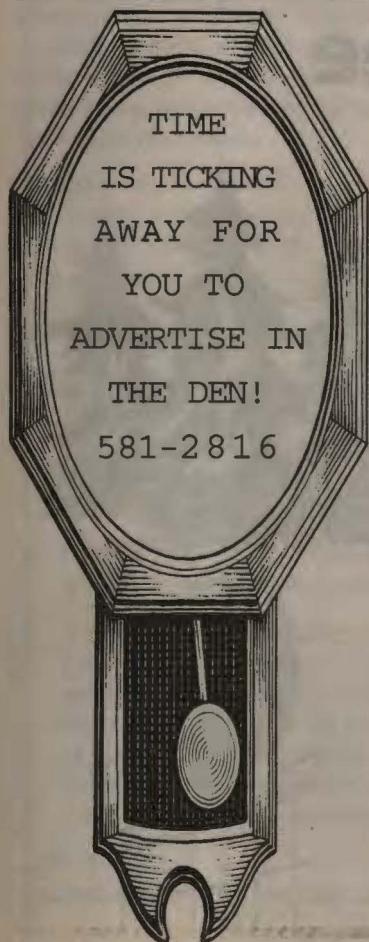
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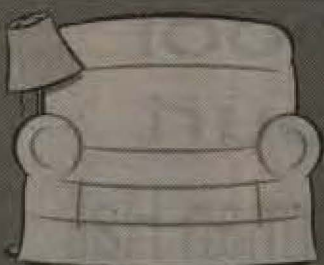


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I want some VARIETY

By Andrea Stankevych
STAFF WRITER

Your panther card has been missing in action for 48 hours, and you're beginning to look jaundiced because of your nothing-but-Ramen emergency diet. What are your options?

Either mooch off a friend's meal plan, or grab a friend and go off-campus to spend some money for real food.

Sophomore nursing major Lauren Kenton has one place in mind when she departs from her meal plan: E.L. Krackers.

"They have a wide variety of food choices. Going to the residence halls here at Eastern has no variety. I know that Krackers will satisfy my cravings of homemade cooking and allow me to go to a sit-down restaurant and socialize with friends."

E.L. Krackers was one of the top three restaurants when surveying some students here at Eastern Illinois University.

Sabrina Strid, the general manager there, said E.L. Krackers gets about 30 to 40 percent more business during the school year than during the summertime.

Many students come in with their friends to escape residence hall food or go on



dates there. It's also a common place for professors to have meetings.

The quietest time of the

year for Krackers is in July, whereas the months of August through June deal with a decent amount of

business.

Many students can afford the food, though prices are a little higher than other restaurants here in the Charleston area. It offers a variety of foods from burgers, pastas and salads, to lobster, shrimp and steaks.

This gives students many options to choose from.

Strid said, "We're very student friendly and we offer a wide variety. This is a nice restaurant to get away from (residence hall) dorm food or even fast food."

What's Cookin' is another sit-down restaurant that students enjoy going to, with a variety of foods as well.

Courtney Bales, a shift supervisor, says the restaurant is a lot busier during the school year, when there is between a 30 percent to 35 percent increase in business.

She feels that students enjoy eating at What's Cookin' because of its long breakfast hours, which extend until 2 p.m. unlike some of the competition.

Believe it or not, November through January is slower because of the

change in season as she said.

October is their busiest month due to parent's weekend and homecoming.

Besides breakfast, they serve different types of sandwiches, salads and more.

Their prices are also a little cheaper than nearby restaurants, so it is more affordable to students.

For a fast food alternative, many students enjoy Jimmy Johns, a gourmet sandwich shop located between La Bamba's Mexican Restaurant and The Mad Hatter's Tea.

According to manager Jerry Cole, Jimmy John's business increases 100 percent during the school year, even though winter months are slow due to cold weather.

What makes Jimmy John's convenient and affordable for students is that delivery is available for free, unlike the few other places that offer delivery.

Although the residence halls offer a variety of foods such as grilled cheese, tomato soup, chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs and deli-style sandwiches, it can become monotonous when eaten day after day.

Though it may cost you for a change in food, it is definitely worth it to go out to eat once in a while.



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Cambridge and Nantucket
AROUND THE CURVE ON SOUTH 9TH STREET ACROSS FROM CHURCH

Some Eastern students are divided about living ...

On campus vs. Off campus

By Amee Bohrer
FEATURES EDITOR

At 10 p.m., senior graphic design major Beth Kooyenga sits at her kitchen table, slicing cold potatoes. She maneuvers the knife through them effortlessly, since nearly every meal combination she makes for herself centers around potatoes. Or rice.

Kooyenga's mealtime ritual is not inspired by a passion for potatoes, but rather a consequence of living off-campus in a housing complex on Arthur Street and being responsible for purchasing and preparing all her own meals.

"The only thing I can afford to buy is three giant bags of potatoes," Kooyenga said.

She has a varied recipe repertoire centered around the vegetables; but her favorite recipe involves tacos which substitute potatoes for the meat, a combination she calls "potacos."

Her daily meal regimen was not like this when she was still living on-campus.

With the swipe of her panther card, freshman Alyson Schroederer has a plethora of food choices available to her, potatoes included.

However, if Schroederer wanted to make the same meal as Kooyenga, the kitchen sink is six floors down, in the basement.

The closest thing to a kitchen sink on her floor is the bathroom. While suitable for rinsing dishes, the bathroom is not the ideal place for peeling and washing potatoes.

A resident of Lawson hall, most of Schroederer's meals are taken in at one of the four campus dining centers where they already prepared by dining service workers.

However, she usually eats dinner at 4:30 p.m.

"I try to eat when the food is warm, because if it's cold you're better off eating ice cream," Schroederer said.

During her first semester she has learned quickly that waiting to eat later means that the food is not as hot as when it was first put out, said Schroederer.

She ventures off-campus about four times a week for her meals, but this is mostly on weekends.

However, Schroederer is still a strict coupon-clipper whenever possible when buying any food off-campus, or buying anything for that matter.

For Kooyenga, shopping is much simpler. "I go shopping in my mom's kitchen," she says. Mostly, she brings back a lot of rice.

However food is not the only thing that separates on and off-campus living.

Along with eating, every healthy student also requires bathing at some point.

"Living on campus is horrible."

Beth Kooyenga, senior graphic design major

For Schroederer, this involves padding down the carpeted hall and around the corner to the public bathroom she shares with the rest of her floor.

Articles, quizzes and information are posted inside each painted, industrial stall.

Kooyenga and her roommate, senior graphic design major Kevin Cetera, share a small bathroom crammed with styling products, shampoos, towels and various personal decorations.

However, they don't have to compete with dozens of others for showers every day.

There are several showers on Schroederer's floor, but securing one before her 8 a.m. classes is often difficult, she said.

Kooyenga showers in the morning, but Cetera prefers to take them at night, so competition for shower time is not really an issue for them.

Cetera's reason for his opposite routine is that he sleeps better knowing that his head will hit his Blues Clues pillowcase freshly shampooed.

"I'm weird about my bed being dirty," Cetera said.

Another pet peeve of residence hall bathrooms she cites is that multiple toilets are usually unflushed and often sanitary products are not disposed of properly.

She finds the latter "disgusting." Leftover ramen noodles may be dumped in one of the sinks haphazardly.

Yet, the floor residents are not the ones who have to deal with clogged toilets and clean up after other resident's messes—although common courtesy is expected on each floor.

Each day Building Service Workers are hard at work vacuuming, cleaning and scrubbing the bathrooms and hallways of each floor so students don't have to.

Kooyenga and Cetera know that the hair is not in just going to magically disappear from the shower walls, and the toilets are not going to clean themselves.

If the toilet or sink clogs, it won't be fixed until they find time to alert their landlord and point out the problem. Then there's the wait for a plumber or maintenance man.

No BSWs will arrive to pick up the trash either. If they don't take it out, it'll just stink.

Probably the most drastic contrast

"Next year I'm going to be living on campus."

Alyson Schroederer, freshman elementary education major

between the lives of on and off-campus students is the physical buildings they live in and the difference between community and quasi-isolation.

While living off campus offers more privacy, it also lacks some of the community of a residence hall floor.

On Schroederer's wall is a lavender 8" x 11" piece of paper bearing her full name and room number printed in bold from a computer and cluttered with scrawled handwritten messages all over the remaining space.

It's part of daily initiative in Lawson Hall, which features nine different such pieces of paper posted in the building every day.

Other residents and building staff write personal affirmations to the designated person on the paper commenting on what is likable and unique about the person, said Schroederer.

On the door to her room is a picture of her with roommate Fern Delima, also a freshman elementary education major. Posed together in one of the showers (fully clothed!) Schroederer and Delima seem to have been on the verge of a giggle fit when the photograph was snapped.

Pictures taken of roommates together of a similarly lighthearted nature can be found on the door of every other resident on the floor and throughout the building because every resident assistant is responsible for making door decorations to welcome their residents for the year.

No handmade door decorations will be found ornamenting the door of Kooyenga and Cetera or any other doors in their complex.

However, such residence hall perks as these are a sacrifice Kooyenga doesn't mind making in exchange for living off-campus.

The reason she left the residence halls in the first place was to get away from the masses of people and all the rules that come with the comforts of on-campus life. Not to mention gaining additional freedoms, since she is 24 and Cetera is 23.

In their kitchen, empty alcohol containers line the top shelves of the cabinets—something one will never find in any residence hall.

Even in Stevenson, the residence hall specifically for upperclassmen and students

over 21 year of age, there are restrictions on what kind of alcohol students are allowed to possess. Only beer and wine are legal in the residence halls for upperclass student age.

But the main reason Kooyenga moved off campus was because, "I'd rather live with people I choose to live with."

She finds the minimization of interaction with students that off-campus living offers to be comforting. "Living on campus is horrible."

Schroederer does not agree with Kooyenga's opinion and likes being around many people all the time.

"I'm going to be living on campus next year. I know a lot of people on my floor. I don't find it annoying, except when people are being noisy," or maybe when people take her laundry out of the dryer before the cycle is done.

Even when she had left a note saying she would be right back and not to remove it, she said some people are just too impatient about their dirty laundry to heed her request.

However, Kooyenga and Cetera have been friends for five years, since Kooyenga's sophomore year and Cetera's freshman year. They have the same major, same exact schedule except for one class and even the same group of friends at home.

They have a set group of friends and are not focused on meeting new ones but rather graduation.

"We don't fight," Kooyenga says, which is precisely why she relishes not having to deal with living around so many strangers any more.

But for freshman, residence halls offered instant access to hundreds of new friends and an easier transition to college life since the majority are away from home for the first time.

At the end of the day, Kooyenga and Cetera retire for the night (or morning) to their separate bedrooms. Clothes are strewn about each has a separate set of furniture that was brought from home, along with a bed not supplied by the university.

Schroederer climbs up the pre-assembled loft she ordered from the university for \$20 which she admits makes her a little nervous because it shakes slightly when she ascends it.

She climbs into her extra long bed which is unmade, because it's just not practical to make a loft-bed every day, she said.

Although there are clearly vast contrasts between living on and off-campus, there is one unifying factor for all students involved in this case: Kooyenga and Cetera don't make their beds either.

RHA gives students living in residence halls a voice

By Jessica Youngs
STAFF WRITER

Students often find themselves complaining about how much they dislike their dorm room or how horrible it is to live in their residence hall.

Still, hardly any think to do anything about their situation other than complain.

If they want to do something about their situation, they can bring concerns to Eastern's Residence Hall Association.

RHAs goal is to make students' lives as comfortable as possible said Jenn Andersen, vice president for diversity and programming.

She explained that the association dreads the word 'dorm.'

"You don't live in a dorm, you sleep in a dorm," she said. "We say residence halls because we want them to be a home away from home."

"RHA is the residents' voice in the residence halls," said Mark Hudson, director of housing and dining. "It is a representative group of our customers."

Hudson said students, such as freshman business management major Susie Eident, can bring complaints about issues in their halls to RHA.

Eident, a Pemberton Hall resident, said her main problem with the hall is that there is not any air conditioning.

Hudson said if she wanted to, she could voice her complaint at a Pemberton Hall Council meeting, and then the council would kick ideas around of what could be done to correct the problem.

If the council decided to push an idea forward, the association would consider it and make a decision.

What is RHA?

The residence hall association, or RHA, is dedicated to deal with matters of mutual interest of the member halls and to coordinate activities and act as a mediating body to its councils.

Andersen said the second way the association works is as a governing body that makes laws for all the halls on campus.

"The residence hall legislation is done through RHA," she said.

A recent example of how the association works, as a law-making body is the issue of smoking in residence halls.

"We didn't eliminate it completely because we wanted to do so only if it was in the favor of all students on campus," Andersen said.

Instead, it was decided to let each hall council make a decision on its own which RHA would support she said.

Some halls completely got rid of smoking floors while others drastically reduced the number of floors students were allowed to smoke on.

Lisa Schmidt, a freshman ele-

mentary education major, said she wished RHA hadn't made some laws governing residence halls.

"I don't like how we have to deal with boys!" she said.

Schmidt, a Lincoln Hall resident, said boys have to be escorted to adjoining Stevenson Hall's bathroom to simply wash their hands or brush their teeth.

She called this rule "stupid" and said it was a pain because she lives in the furthest wing away from Stevenson.

The last way RHA works is by giving students a chance to be leaders.

"In addition to doing things that students enjoy, (members) also grow in their own leadership abilities," Hudson said.

RHA members learn about leadership by attending conferences each semester Andersen said.

She said she has seen a lot of excitement among members about the conference second semester.

"If people realize that they have a chance to plan their own entertainment and plan what they're going to do, it's empowering," she said.

Currently, the association is working on evolving master renovation plans based on a comprehensive survey said Hudson.

"(The survey) provides feedback on how to spend the right amount of money on the right project," he said. "It shows what is going to meet the student's need the best."

Hudson's job as director of housing and dining allows him to work closely with the association. He works with RHA to appoint students to serve on the revenue bond committee and to set room and board rates he said.

Hudson said the association also works to provide social experiences for students with activities such as Campus Perk in Thompson Hall and "Little Kids' Week" during which students can bring brothers and sisters to campus.

"This year we are trying to institute a new tradition," Andersen said. "We want to have a week sort of like Greek Week, but instead, it will be a Residence Hall Week."

She hopes the event will take place next February.

Andersen said she joined RHA because she loved being involved and she wanted to be in an organization that she thought would directly affect as many people as possible.

"I wanted to touch people's lives by planning programs for them," she said.